

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 2nd August 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Police remind residents Covid-19 has not gone away

Ahead of the weekend, Cheshire Police is reminding residents not to let their guard down in the fight against Covid-19. Whilst there has been a steady decline in the number of cases across the county, the virus has not gone away and it is essential that everyone continues to follow the government guidelines.

Superintendent Julie Westgate said: *"Firstly, I would like to thank residents for everything they have done to help reduce the number of Covid-19 cases in Cheshire. This has been an extremely difficult time for everyone and I understand the great sacrifices people have had to make to help achieve this. However, as we move forward it is essential that people don't let their guard down and they continue to follow the guidance which has been put in place by the Government. As we have seen in neighbouring areas, the situation can change quickly, so all Cheshire residents need to remain vigilant, act responsibly and do everything they can to stay safe. This includes ensuring they adhere to the social distancing guidelines and wear face coverings when out in shops and stores. This is particularly relevant ahead of the weekend when lots of people will be out shopping and socialising with friends and family, and it's easy to forget about some of the restrictions. Our officers will continue to patrol key locations and use common sense and discretion to determine what is reasonable, with officers engaging, explaining, encouraging and, only as a last resort, enforcing."*

Cheshire's PCC David Keane added: *"The vast majority of Cheshire residents have followed the government's advice over the past few months, I hope that this continues. Please keep in mind the purpose of the remaining regulations and the national effort and, by following the guidance and working together, we can all help to protect the NHS and save lives."*

For more details on the coronavirus legislation [visit the government's website](#).

Detectives arrest 17-year-old boy in connection with Nantwich assault

Detectives investigating a serious assault in Nantwich have arrested a 17-year-old boy.

The teenager was arrested in Stockport on suspicion of attempted murder and is currently in police custody waiting to be questioned by police. At 8.20pm on Sunday 27 July police were made aware of a man inside a flat on Tailors View, Arnold Street who had suffered severe injuries to his head. A 42-year-old man has been charged with attempted murder and is due to appear at Chester Crown Court on 27 August. A 50-year-old man has been released on conditional bail.

Detectives issue warning following recent spate in telephone scams across Cheshire

Detectives are issuing an urgent warning to the public after a recent spate in telephone scams which have left Cheshire victims without thousands of pounds.

Officers are continuing to see cases of courier fraud, this scam is mainly committed by organised crime groups (OCGs). A member of the OCG, known as the 'victim communicator', makes a phone call to vulnerable victims telling them that they are a police officer or work at a bank. They persuade the victim to co-operate with an 'operation' designed to gather evidence or identify offenders responsible for fictional offences. The victims are asked to withdraw money from their bank, purchase an expensive item and/or provide their bank details or card to assist with the operation. Money, items or documents are then handed over to the 'courier', who attends the address of the victim or meets them nearby, on the promise that the money or item will be returned or compensation provided. Cheshire Constabulary are now urging others to be aware of these scams and alert vulnerable neighbours or family.

DS Chris Jacques from Cheshire Police's Economic Crime Unit said: *"These fraudsters are extremely convincing and can be very persistent especially when targeting vulnerable victims. Police officers, banks and other such services will never ask you to withdraw money or provide card details so please do not be taken in by these scams. It is important to remember that telephone numbers can be easily spoofed and you should never trust a number displayed on your telephone. They may also attempt to ask victims to call back on 999, 101 or 161 to verify that they are genuine but this is part of the scam and they keep the line open so that the victim continues speak with the scammers believing that they are genuine officials. Anyone who is receiving calls asking for money to be withdrawn and handed over to a courier should call 101 or report it to Action Fraud."*

PCC David Keane said: *"It is quite concerning that there have been more cases of fraud across Cheshire. Fraudsters will stop at nothing for their own criminal gain and I know that the force will continue to crackdown on the mindless scammers and do everything in their power to bring them to justice. I am urging residents to continue to inform family and friends about these callous scams to ensure that no-one else falls victim."*

Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or have been a victim of fraud should call Cheshire Police on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Former football coach pleads guilty to sexually abusing two young boys

Former football coach Barry Bennell has today (Friday 31 July) pleaded guilty to sexually abusing two young boys more than 30 years ago.

The 66-year-old, who is currently in prison after being convicted of similar offences in 2018, appeared via video link at Chester Crown Court, where he admitted nine sexual offences in relation to two victims. The offences include one count of buggery and six counts of indecent assault in relation to one victim and two counts of buggery in relation to the second victim. The boys were aged between 10 and 14-years-old at the time of the offences, which date back to the 1980s.

DI Sarah Oliver, who has been leading on the case, said: *"Today, Barry Bennell has pleaded guilty to a number of sexual offences – sparing his victims the trauma of having to re-live what happened to them during a trial. This would undoubtedly have been a very difficult and upsetting experience for them. I hope that this decision will help to provide some closure after so many years of pain trying to deal with and make sense of what happened to them. Bennell abused his position of trust as a football coach for his own sexual gratification. He was highly regarded in his field and took advantage of this by preying on these two young boys at a time in their life when he knew they were vulnerable and dreamt of making it in the world of professional football. He knew exactly what he was doing was wrong but carried on regardless. Anyone who has suffered from sexual abuse – whether it took place recently or many years ago – should never feel*

ashamed about talking about what has happened to them. Help and support is available to those who need it. I commend the victims for their bravery and courage in this case and would like to thank them for their support throughout the investigation.”

The case was adjourned until 5 October when Bennell will be sentenced at Chester Crown Court.

Three men jailed following £600,000 burglary spree

Three men who caused damage and stole items to a total value of more than £600,000 during a series of burglaries across the country have been jailed for more than 24 years.

Vincent Ball, John Barlow and Thomas Mee are all members of a sophisticated organised crime gang from Liverpool. Between them they committed at least 14 burglaries at addresses in Cheshire, Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire, Buckinghamshire and Warwickshire between November 2018 and October 2019. The group specifically targeted homes in affluent rural locations. They stole high value watches, designer handbags and jewellery worth more than half-a-million pounds. The majority of the burglaries were committed during the hours of darkness and at weekends. Ball acted as the getaway driver, while Barlow and Mee carried out the burglaries.



The group first came to Cheshire Constabulary’s attention in late 2018 when a series of burglaries were committed by offenders using ladders to enter properties through first floor windows and doors to ultimately avoid setting off house alarms. An investigation was launched by officers from the force’s Serious and Organised Crime Unit and over the following months officers began piecing together a raft of evidence linking the trio to burglaries across Cheshire. These included incidents in Goostrey, Neston, Allostock, Mere, Chelford, and Lymm. They also found evidence which linked the men to burglaries in Barnby Moor in Nottinghamshire, Barnt Green in Worcestershire, Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire and Lapworth in Warwickshire. Their downfall came at around 8.30pm on Saturday 5 October 2019 when police received a 999 call from a resident in Prestbury reporting that a family member had disturbed a number of intruders at their Macclesfield Road home.



Whilst fleeing the property the burglars dropped valuable items worth approximately £500,000. Police were at the scene within minutes and Ball and Mee were arrested a short time later in Massey Street, Alderley Edge, where officers also discovered a Vauxhall Insignia which the group had used as their getaway car. Within the car officers found crowbars, walkie-talkies, torches, mobile phones, disposable gloves, false number plates, along with various items of clothing which contained traces of Barlow and Mee's DNA. Barlow managed to evade officers on the night, disposing of some of his clothing and making his way back to Alderley Edge before travelling back to Liverpool in a taxi in the early hours of the morning. He was arrested on Monday 28 October. During subsequent searches of the trio's homes in Merseyside, officers discovered a significant amount of evidence, including stolen items, a large quantity of cash and mobile phones. One of the phones recovered belonging to Mee was found to contain pictures of items that were stolen from several of the burglaries.



Ball, 52, Barlow, 58, and Mee, 42, all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to burgle and were sentenced at Chester Crown Court today, Friday 31 July. Mee also admitted three counts of handling stolen goods. They were jailed for a total of 24 years and 10 months Ball, of Ranworth Place, Liverpool, was sentenced to 6 years and 9 months in prison; Barlow, of no fixed address, was jailed for 7 years and 6 months; and Mee, of HMP Altcourse, was handed an 8 year and 7 month custodial sentence.

A spokesperson from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit said: *"Ball, Barlow and Mee are all members of a sophisticated organised crime gang responsible for at least 14 burglaries across England. They showed an extreme level of forensic and digital awareness when committing the offences, demonstrating their determination to obtain hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of other people's property and family heirlooms. A significant level of planning and preparation went into each burglary, with the trio travelling hundreds of miles to commit the offences and specifically targeting the homes of high profile businessmen and women, footballers and celebrities. In these 14 incidents alone they caused damage and stole property to a total value of more than £600,000. The impact of their crime spree should not be underestimated. To know that criminals have been in your home – the place you should be able to feel most safe – rifled through your property and stole your personal possessions is sickening. While the majority of these incidents occurred when the victims were out, some burglaries took place while they were at home. To be subjected to such an ordeal must be absolutely terrifying and something that nobody should have to experience. I hope that these convictions provide some comfort and reassurance to the victims and allows them to move forward with their lives. I would also like to thank all of the officers involved in this case for the roles that they have played in securing the convictions against Ball, Barlow and Mee. As a result of their work, a major organised crime gang has been removed from our streets and the trio are now facing a significant period behind bars. I hope that this case acts as a warning to anyone who is planning on travelling to Cheshire to commit crimes. Our message to them is 'don't make a wasted journey'."*

If you have any information about this type of crime in Cheshire you can call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for three years after heroin seized during warrant in Neston

A 54-year-old man has been jailed for three years for drug offences after heroin with an estimated street value of £1,360 was seized during a warrant in Neston.

Kevin Bennion, of Drake Road, was arrested with being concerned in supply of class A (heroin) and subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class A following a warrant at an address in the town. During the raid officers recovered a quantity of heroin, cash and mobile phones. Bennion was remanded in custody, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years imprisonment at Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 23 July.

Sergeant Kevin Green, of Ellesmere Port Beat Management Team, said: *"I hope that this result shows that we will not stop when pursuing those responsible for drug dealing in our neighbourhoods and we will always act on information provided by local communities. I am glad that we have prevented these drugs from reaching the streets of Neston but our fight against those who blight our neighbourhood with illegal drugs continues. We will do everything our power to stamp out illegal drug activity and I am urging anyone with any concerns about dealing in their local area to call Cheshire Police on 101 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>."*

PCC David Keane said: *"This result is a great example of how officers are doing everything they can to put an end to illegal drug activity across Cheshire. This sentence should be a warning to those who are involved in this type of criminal activity and believe that they are beyond the law. As police and crime commissioner I will be working with the chief constable to ensure officers continue their efforts in tracking down and bringing these criminals to justice."*

Man charged with attempted murder in connection with Nantwich incident

A 42-year-old man has been charged after a man was found with serious injuries in Nantwich.

Stephen Symes, of Tailors View, Arnold Street was arrested shortly before 5am on Wednesday 29 July. He has subsequently been charged with attempted murder. The charge relates to an incident at an address on Tailors View, Arnold Street on Sunday 27 July. A 39-year-old man sustained serious injuries to his head and was taken to hospital. He remains in hospital in a critical but stable condition. Symes has been remanded and is due to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court on Thursday 30 July. A 50-year-old man arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender has been released on conditional bail. The investigation remains ongoing and anyone who has any information is asked to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or Cheshire Police on 101.

Drug dealer from Runcorn jailed

A drug dealer from Runcorn has been jailed after being caught in possession of more than £1,500 worth of cannabis.



Callum Pope, of Lime Grove, Runcorn, was found guilty of possessing the class B drug with intent to supply it following a trial at Chester Crown Court. The 20-year-old returned to the court to be sentenced on Monday 27 July. He was jailed for two years. The case against Pope began when officers attended an address in Pool Lane in Runcorn Old Town on Thursday 11 June regarding an unrelated matter. Before entering the property at around 2pm, one of the officers witnessed Pope walk out of the back door and hide a large tin in the

garden. When they were all inside Pope was searched and found to be in possession of a snap bag of cannabis. A large amount of cannabis, snap bags and cash were found inside the tin that had been hidden in the garden. Digital scales containing traces of cannabis and a mobile found that was subsequently found to contain text messages regarding drug dealing were found inside the address. A drug expert estimated the total street value of the cannabis that officers seized from the address to be £1,620. Pope confirmed that the cannabis was his after being arrested and interviewed in custody but he claimed that it was all for personal use. However, the extent of the evidence that officers gathered against him led to Pope being found guilty of the drug dealing offence he was charged with.

Following his sentencing, PC Jamie Macdonald, who led the investigation on behalf of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *“The vast majority of the cannabis that we seized from the address had been split down into individual £10 and £20 street deal sizes. We also seized a package that contained around 25 grams of loose cannabis and a large number of unused snap bags. With the amount of cannabis we found at the address – as well as the manner in which it had been packaged and the presence of digital scales and unused snap bags – it was clear that the drugs were being stored there for onward supply. We are delighted to have removed this significant quantity of cannabis from our streets as we are fully aware of the negative impact illegal drug use and supply can have on communities. We are equally pleased that Callum Pope has been convicted of dealing the class B drug and is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. I hope that the 20-year-old spends his time in custody rethinking the choices he has made and changes his ways.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“This is another example of proactive police work leading to a drug dealer and a significant amount of illegal drugs being taken off our streets. Illegal drugs and those who supply them blight our communities, causing untold damage to both those that use them and the wider society who suffer from the resulting crime. As Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, I know that officers work tirelessly in their fight against drug dealing and I am delighted to hear of this latest successful result.”*

PC Macdonald added: *“Although this case has now concluded, our battle against those who supply illegal drugs continues. I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter.”*

To report suspected drug dealing, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, [give the details via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man in Widnes charged with grievous bodily harm

Detectives have charged a 29-year-old man with grievous bodily harm.

Anthony Gelling, of Cronton Lane Mews in Widnes, appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court today, Tuesday 28 July. He entered a not guilty plea and is due to appear at Liverpool Crown Court in August. The charge relates to an incident at an address on Cronton Lane Mews in Widnes on Thursday 6 February and subsequently reported to police on Saturday 8 February.

Runcorn man jailed after £6,000 worth cannabis discovered during warrant

A 55-year-old man has been jailed for 18 months for drug offences after cannabis with a total street value of around £6,000 was seized during a warrant in Runcorn.

Ian Ainge, of Davenport Row, was arrested and subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis) and possession of class C drugs (tramadol) when officers executed a warrant at an address at around 12.30pm on Friday 29 May. Officers recovered a quantity of cannabis, tramadol, cash and a number of weapons including a machete and a stun gun. Ainge pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 21 July.



Sergeant Phil Brown of Runcorn Beat Team said: *“This was a great result for the Runcorn Beat Team following an investigation into drug dealing in the town. “I hope that this result will act as a deterrent to those who believe that they can get away with drug activities in Runcorn. Illegal drugs can have a detrimental impact on the local community, so it is crucial that we work to stamp out this type of crime. If you have any information about drug offences in your area then please contact Cheshire Police via 101, or by visiting <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>. Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or by visiting <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>. ”*

PCC David Keane said: *“Officers across the Constabulary are working tirelessly to end the misery that illegal drugs can bring to communities. I am pleased that Runcorn’s beat management team have prevented these drugs from reaching the town’s streets and although this investigation has now concluded, I know that Cheshire Constabulary’s fight against those who blight our neighbourhood with illegal drugs continues. I would urge anyone with information about suspected drug activity in their community to contact Cheshire Police.”*

Family of a man who died following serious assault in Warrington pay tribute

The family of a man who died following a serious assault in Warrington have paid tribute to him.

Andrew Webster sadly died following the assault at Gateway Trade Park, Kerfoot Street, Warrington, which occurred shortly after 10am on Thursday 2 July. Andy’s wife, Lisa, said: *“Andy was such a strong, brave, wonderful husband, but more so he was a brilliant father. He made us feel safe and secure and built our family a great future. He worked hard as a builder, always perfecting every job he completed, he was never scared of a hard day’s work and could always be found perfecting his garage or working on his next project. Andy was so well thought of in the town and so many called upon him for help and advice, whether that be personal or business. Ruby was the apple of his eye and Andy loved nothing more than spending quality time with her, whether that be on the back of one of his motorbikes, or on their annual Dad and daughter trips abroad. He loved his motorbikes, he had such a burning ambition to race, just recently he had put a small race team together and was excited for the first event. Words cannot describe how much we miss him and how much of a hero he is to us. Our time was cut short but we can still feel his love and loyalty and his many stories will be forever told by all who knew him.”*



Two men charged in connection with Chester burglaries

Officers investigating a series of burglaries across in Chester have charged two men in connection with the incidents.

Stephen Collins, 44, and Kai Davis, 20, were both arrested on Sunday 26 July following a series of burglaries across Chester. Collins, of Hatton Road, Chester has since been charged with five counts of burglary. The

charges relates to incidents on Sealand Road, Newton Lane, Dickson Drive and Gladstone Avenue which occurred between Friday 10 July and Friday 24 July. He had been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court later today, Monday 27 July. Davis, of Lynwood Road, Chester, has been charged with handling stolen goods and fraud offences. The charges relate to items which were stolen during the Newton Lane burglary. He has been released on bailed and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 27 July

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Two men arrested in connection with Nantwich assault

Detectives investigating a man seriously assaulted in Nantwich have arrested two men.

On Wednesday 29 July a 42-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and a 50-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender. Both men were arrested at separate addresses and are currently in police custody. At 8.20pm on Sunday 27 July police were made aware of a man inside a flat on Tailors View, Arnold Street who had suffered severe injuries to his head. The 39-year-old was taken to hospital where he remains in a critical but stable condition in hospital.

Leading the investigation DI Claire Jesson said: *"This is a fast moving investigation and we are continuing to follow a number of lines of enquiry to establish the full circumstances. The man sustained horrific injuries during the attack, which I believe took place between 3pm and 4.30pm. I am still urging anyone who was in the area of Tailors View, Arnold Street around this time and may have information to come forward. If anyone with information feels uncomfortable speaking to police I would encourage you to contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."*

A scene remains in place at the address and local officers are continuing to patrol the area to provide reassurance. If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously.

Police appeal for witnesses following serious assault in Runcorn

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious assault at a bar in Runcorn.

At 1.43am on Saturday 25 July, police were called to Alchemy in High Street, Runcorn following reports of an altercation. On arrival paramedics were treating a 21-year-old man who was taken to hospital. He remains in a serious but stable condition.

DC John Ellis said: *"We're still piecing together events from that night and are appealing to anyone who saw the incident to contact police. During the incident the victim's mobile phone also went missing. If anyone found a Huawei P6 in the pub or High Street, please make contact with police."*

As part of enquiries into the assault a 21-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of a section 18 assault. Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 [or via our website](#), quoting IML 763112. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Detectives investigating a man seriously assaulted in Nantwich

Detectives investigating a serious assault in Nantwich are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

At 8.20pm on Sunday 27 July police were made aware of a man inside a flat on Tailors View, Arnold Street who had suffered severe injuries. The man was taken to hospital with injuries to his head and he remains in a critical but stable condition. A 42-year-old man was arrested at the address in connection with the incident on suspicion of attempted murder. He has since been released on conditional bail. A scene is currently in place at the address.

DI Claire Jesson, from Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"We are currently working very hard to establish the full circumstances of this incident. At this stage we believe the attack to have occurred at some time before 4.30pm. I am therefore encouraging anyone who was in the area of Tailors View, Arnold Street between 3pm and 4.30pm to come forward. The man has sustained horrific injuries to his head and he is currently in a critical but stable condition. We have been conducting a number of CCTV and house-to-house enquiries however I am keen to hear from anyone who has any information or saw any activity at the address before the attack took place. I know there will be people who may feel reticent to speak to police and therefore I would urge you to contact Crimestoppers anonymously."*

Local officers are patrolling the area and anyone who has any concerns is asked to speak to them. If you have any information please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 [or visit their website](#). Information can also be provided by calling Cheshire Police on 101 or [via our website](#).

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 9th August 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Update – Man charged following domestic incident in Runcorn

A following reports of a domestic incident in the Brookvale area of Runcorn has now been charged.

The man was arrested at around 8.30pm on Saturday 8 August following an incident at an address on Cambourne Close. The 50-year-old has since been charged with sending a false message by public electronic communication network to cause annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety. The man, who resides on Cambourne Close, has been released on bail and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates on 8 September 2020.

Man charged following serious assault in Widnes

A 33-year-old man from Widnes has been charged following a serious assault in the town.

Mark Collins, of Albert Road, was arrested in the Appleton area of Widnes at around 5pm on Wednesday 5 August. He has subsequently been charged with wounding with intent. The charge relates to an incident that occurred in Dean Street, Widnes, at around 10pm on Friday 31 July. A local man in his 20s sustained serious injuries as a result of the incident. He was taken to hospital in an ambulance and has since been discharged after receiving treatment. Collins appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Thursday 6 August. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 3 September.

Man sentenced following courier fraud in Macclesfield

A man from Birmingham who attempted to steal £8,300 from a vulnerable man in Macclesfield has been sentenced.

Shortly after 10.30am on Wednesday 28 February 2020 an 85-year-old Macclesfield resident received a phone call from a man claiming to be a police officer. The caller convinced the victim that there had been a number of suspicious transactions on his bank account and that his money was at risk. He was also informed that police believed the suspect in the case was an employee at the bank. The victim was told that in order to secure his money he needed to withdraw it from his bank, return home with the cash and a courier would call to collect it. The money would be returned to him at a later date. Believing the caller, who was extremely plausible, the man went to his bank in Macclesfield. He was told it was only possible to withdraw £1,000 which, still thinking he was assisting police, he agreed to. While waiting for his cash, the man spotted a Cheshire police poster stating that "police would never ask you to withdraw money from your bank".

Realising he was in the process of being scammed, he went straight to Macclesfield Police Station and explained the situation. Plain clothed officers made their way to the victim's house and waited in the hallway for the courier to arrive. Marcello Gaspar subsequently knocked on door and told the victim he was there to collect the cash on behalf of a police sergeant. Gaspar, of Arundel Road, Birmingham, was arrested at the address on suspicion of fraud by false representation. He pleaded guilty to the offence and on Thursday 6 August, he appeared at Chester Crown Court where he was sentenced to 15 weeks in prison, suspended for two years. He has also been ordered to complete 60 hours unpaid work.

Following his sentencing DS Chris Jacques from the Cheshire Police Economic Crime Unit said: *“To specifically target a vulnerable, elderly man with the intent to defraud him of thousands of pounds is simply sickening and I cannot understand how somebody can stoop so low as to commit such an offence. In this case, it was only due to the fact that the victim saw the police poster in the bank and realised that he was being scammed that we were able to bring Gasper to justice. Sadly, this is not always the outcome and over the past twelve months we are aware of many more victims who have lost thousands of pounds. The impact of these scams can be both financially and emotionally devastating, and in many cases the people responsible are never traced.”*

Gasper was caught thanks to a poster which had been displayed in the bank as part of a concerted campaign launched by Cheshire Police to help tackle courier fraud. The campaign has been supported by the majority of banks and building societies.

Cheshire PCC David Keane, said: *“I would personally like to thank the bank and building society managers across Cheshire who have*

been extremely proactive in displaying these posters and helping us tackle courier fraud. Those who perpetrate this type of crime are preying on, primarily, the older members of society by purporting to be from the police or a financial institution. They coerce the victim to withdraw large amounts of cash to ‘assist them in an ongoing investigation’ and then disappear with the money. The impact of these scams can be both absolutely devastating but, with the work that frontline officers are doing with the support of our banks and building societies, I hope that we are able to prevent more of this type of crime being committed.”



Three men charged following Widnes disturbance

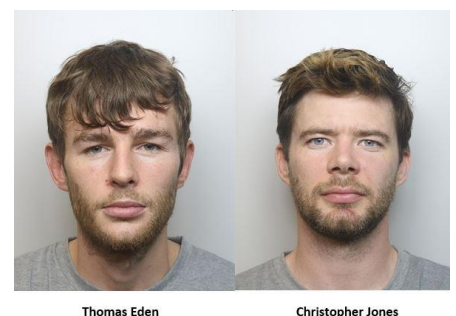
Detectives investigating a large disturbance in Widnes have now charged three men.

Luke Price, aged 52, Rueben Price, 47, and Rueben Price Jnr, 25, were all arrested by officers following an incident which occurred at around 12.30pm on Monday 3 August on Factory Lane, Widnes. Luke, of Southworth Road, Newton-le-Willows, Rueben, of Factory Lane, Widnes and Rueben Jnr, of Regent Street, Newton-le-Willows, have all since been charged with one count of violent disorder and two counts of having a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. The trio have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court today, Thursday 6 August.

Two men jailed after attacking cash machine in Orford

Two men from Merseyside who attacked a convenience store in Orford have been jailed.

The men smashed the ATM at the Co-op on Orford Lane and attacked it with a sledge hammer before using a tow rope to remove it from the premises. It was shortly after 9pm on Monday 15 June when 26-year-old Thomas Eden and 31-year-old Christopher Jones pulled up at speed in a black pick-up truck. The two staff members inside were told to get out of the way while Jones, of no fixed address, brandished a crow bar. Eden, of Lovel Road and Jones, of no fixed address, then walked into the store also armed with the sledge hammer and attempted to force the front of the ATM off. Jones then attached a tow rope to the cash machine to gain access to the discard tray. The pair then took the tray back to the pick-up truck and made off at speed. Eden and Jones abandoned the vehicle on Dudley Street and got



Thomas Eden

Christopher Jones

into a Seat Ibiza where they travelled towards Widnes before abandoning it on Ditton Road. Officers with assistance from National Police Air Support (NPAS) began a thorough search of that area and spotted Eden and Jones running through gardens. The men were arrested in the garden of a bungalow near to a pub on Halebank Road. On Wednesday 5 August both men appeared at Liverpool Crown Court for sentencing after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. Eden was sentenced to three years and eight months for robbery and Jones was jailed for five years and eight months for robbery and absconding from HMP Thorn Cross on Christmas Eve in 2019.

DS Tom Hall, from Warrington Police's Beat Initiative Team, said: *"Eden and Jones terrified two members of staff as they brazenly robbed the store in full view of the public who were filming them in action. They had planned their attack by swapping vehicles after fleeing from the scene and then attempted to evade police by running through people's gardens and hiding in bushes. I want to thank the public who came forward to provide information, the hard work of the officers who captured the suspects and the detectives investigating the case. It certainly played a part in the men admitting to their crimes and ensuring they were put behind bars."*

PCC David Keane said: *"These two men shocked the local community as they attacked the cash machine in broad daylight in front of passers-by. I welcome the sentences handed to them and I hope it sends a clear message to other offenders who look to come to Cheshire to commit crime. I also would like to praise those members of the community who provided information to the police and to the officers who worked hard to ensure the criminals were brought to justice."*

Call for vigilance following rise in caravan thefts in Cheshire

Cheshire Constabulary is urging caravan owners to be vigilant following a rise in the number of vans being stolen in the county.

Travel restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic has led to an increase in demand for staycations, mobile homes and caravan holidays. Since the start of July four separate caravan theft incidents have been reported in Cheshire. Caravans have been stolen in Widnes, Ellesmere Port and Chester, with vans on driveways particularly being targeted.

Insp Anton Sullivan, of Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Enquiries in relation to the incidents are ongoing and I appeal to anyone with information regarding caravan thefts to get in touch. I also urge caravan owners to be vigilant, to review any security measures they have in place and to take steps to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime. Caravan thieves often scout for desirable vans in the day before returning to steal them at night, so I also ask residents to keep an eye out for suspicious behaviour in this regard and report any suspicions to us."*

Cheshire Constabulary's anti-theft advice for caravan owners is:

- Ensure that your caravan is kept secure at all times, with all doors, windows and roof windows closed and locked
- Remember to fit hitch locks, wheel clamps and immobilisers as required as part of your insurance, even when your caravan is in storage or you are on holiday
- Hitch locks lock a car and a touring caravan together when on-site or at temporary stops en route – the law allows you to tow with the lock in place providing that the hitch still rotates correctly
- Wheel locks have the dual purpose of being a visual deterrent and an anti-theft device – the best ones will still work even if the caravan tyres are let down by thieves

- Look for Sold Secure Gold or Diamond standard wheel locks – often locks that are easy to fit are also easy to remove
- Never store valuables in your caravan – those you take away on holiday with you should be marked with your postcode, as with any accessories you use with your caravan, such as water carriers, tables, satellite dishes etc
- Always store your caravan in a safe and secure location, as detailed to your insurer
- Leaving your caravan in an area covered by CCTV and good quality lighting will deter thieves, as will leaving the hitch head parked inwards and the caravan blocked in and difficult to remove – consider security posts to keep your van even more secure
- If you are thinking of keeping your caravan in a storage site, check if your insurer has a preferred site
- Before choosing a storage site for your caravan, check online to see what crimes have been reported there and how easy it is to go and pick up your caravan and if the site operator checks your details
- When holidaying in a touring caravan, try to use registered sites which have a good level of security, such as CCTV cameras
- Installing a GPS vehicle tracker could help to locate your caravan in the event of it being stolen – if you have such a system make sure that your subscription is paid
- If you have a caravan alarm, set it – these are often linked to the tracking monitoring company and can give early notice of theft
- Register your caravan with CRiS – if it is stolen and then stopped by the police they will be able to contact you quickly
- Keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously where your caravan is stored, and ask your neighbours to do the same – all suspicions concerning thieves targeting caravans should be reported to the police.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“These opportunist thieves could not only potentially ruin someone’s staycation but could also put caravan owners at risk of losing thousands of pounds if their van is stolen. I urge all caravan and motorhome owners across the county to follow the advice from Cheshire Constabulary and check the security of their vehicles. Also, if any members of the public have information in relation to any suspicious activity in relation to caravan theft, please report it to Cheshire Constabulary or anonymously to Crimestoppers as soon as possible.”*

Anyone with any information or footage regarding the theft of caravans is asked to call Constabulary on 101, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Teenager charged with attempted murder in connection with incident in Nantwich

A 17-year-old boy has been charged after a man was found with serious injuries in Nantwich.

The teenager, of no fixed address, was arrested on the afternoon of Friday 31 July. He has subsequently been charged with attempted murder and possession of a meat cleaver. He has been remanded and appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court on Monday 3 August. On Thursday 30 July a 42-year-old man was charged with attempted murder. He appeared at Crewe Magistrates Court the following day and was remanded to appear at Chester Crown Court on 27 August. The charges relate to an incident at an address on Tailors View, Arnold Street on Sunday 27 July. A 39-year-old man sustained serious injuries to his head and was taken to hospital where he remains in a critical but stable condition. A 50-year-old man arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender has been released on conditional bail.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Two people charged following altercation in Nantwich

Detectives investigating an altercation between a number of men in Nantwich town centre have charged two people.

Kian Biddle, aged 18, along with a 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were both arrested in the early hours of Saturday 8 August following an incident in the Beam Street area of the town. The pair have since been charged with Section 18 assault by joint enterprise, possession of an offensive weapon and affray. Biddle was also charged with criminal damage while the 17-year-old has also been charged with possession of a class A drug. Biddle, from Crewe, and the 17-year-old boy, also from Crewe, have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court later today, Monday 10 August. A 22-year-old man from Shavington who was arrested during the incident has been released under investigation pending further enquiries. While a 17-year boy from Holmes Chapel was issued with a Cannabis warning.

UPDATED - Appeal for information following reports of a disturbance in Chester

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following reports of a disturbance in Chester.

At around 7.40pm on Friday 7 August officers received reports of a dispute between a group of five men on the play area on Francis Street, Chester. It is believed that a gun may have been fired during the disturbance – although there are no reports of any injuries. Following the incident, three of the men involved are reported to have fled the scene in a grey car, which drove off in the direction of Brook Street.

DI Insp Liam Furlong said: *"I understand how concerning this incident will be for those living in the area and I want to reassure residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident. The investigation is in its early stages and I need the help and support of the local community to provide any information they may have to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation. I'd ask anyone with an information, no matter how small, to contact Cheshire Police either on 101 quoting IML774245 [or through our website](#). Police patrols have been stepped up in the local area and anyone with any concerns is urged to speak to an officer."*

Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111 [or via their website](#).

A 24-year-old man from Christleton has been arrested in connection with the incident. The man is being held in police custody on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Appeal for information following fatal collision near Chester

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision near Chester.

At around 5am on Friday 7 August police were called to reports of a collision on the A41 Whitchurch Road in Chowley. Officers attended the scene and found there had been a collision between a pedestrian and a HGV. The pedestrian, a woman from the Chester area, sustained serious injuries and sadly died at the scene. The driver of the HGV, a 49-year-old man from Beechwood, Merseyside, is uninjured. The road was closed while officers dealt with the incident. The closure was lifted shortly after 2pm. Enquiries in relation to the incident

are ongoing and anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML773654.

Appeal for information after plant machinery stolen from site in Congleton

Officers are appealing for information after plant machinery was stolen from an industrial estate in Congleton.

At around 11.40pm on Sunday 26 July, four unknown offenders are believed to have taken a compact tractor, power rake, a stump grinder and a tough cut deck from the site off Greenfield Road. Officers are now appealing to anyone who may have captured dashcam footage or CCTV of the offenders to come forward.

PC Georgia Creed of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit said: *“We have been following a number of lines of enquiry in relation to this incident and are determined to find those responsible. As part as of our investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who may have captured CCTV or dashcam footage of the offenders to come forward. I am also keen to hear from anyone who may have been offered the items or may have seen something suspicious in the Greenfield Road area around at the time of the incident.”*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 764711 or report it to us [here](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or report it via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Rochdale man wanted in connection with attempted burglary in Runcorn

Cheshire Constabulary is asking the public to help the force trace a man from Rochdale in Greater Manchester who is wanted in connection with an attempted burglary in Runcorn.

As well as Runcorn and Rochdale, William Loveridge has links to Elton in Cheshire and Yorkshire. The 23-year-old is white and around 5' 8" tall with a proportionate build. He has blond hair and blue eyes. Anyone who sees Loveridge is advised not to approach him but to instead call 101 as soon as possible to speak to Cheshire Constabulary, quoting incident number 20000154923. Alternatively, information regarding Loveridge's whereabouts can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Detectives appeal for witnesses following burglary in Stockton Heath

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward following a burglary in Stockton Heath.

At around 4am on Sunday 2 August an unknown male is believed to have gained entry to a property on Whitefield Road while an elderly couple were at home. A quantity of cash and jewellery were stolen from the property. Officers are now appealing for anyone with information that could help with their investigation to get in touch.

DC Vicky Hancox said: *“This was no doubt a particularly frightening incident and a number of enquiries are currently ongoing. “The jewellery taken during the burglary is of great sentimental value to the victims and I would urge anyone who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously around the time of the incident in the Whitefield Road area to come forward. The same goes for anyone who may have captured CCTV or dashcam*

footage in the surrounding areas. We are doing everything possible to trace those responsible and I would urge anyone with any information, no matter how big or small, to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 769708 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

CCTV images released following burglary in Middlewich

Detectives have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to in connection with a burglary in Middlewich.

A handbag containing a number of bank cards was stolen during the burglary which occurred at a house on Sutton Lane in the early hours of Thursday 23 July. The bank card was subsequently fraudulently used at a supermarket in the town. Enquiries in relation to the burglary and fraud offences are ongoing and detectives believe that the man in the CCTV images may have important information to aid their investigation. They are urging anyone who recognises him or thinks they may know who he is to get in touch.

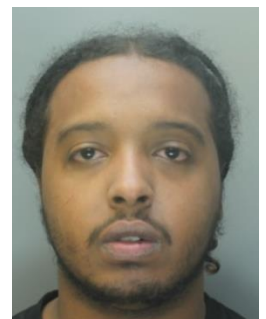


DC Scott Marshall-Bowater, of Crewe CID, said: *"The victim in this case is a vulnerable elderly woman and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the person who broke into her home. As part of our enquiries we are keen to speak to the man in the CCTV images as we believe he may be able to help with our investigation. If you think you recognise the man in the images or know who he is please contact us on 101, quoting IML 761682, give us the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV images to get in touch."*

Liverpool man wanted for drug offences in Macclesfield

Police are asking the public to help them trace a wanted 24-year-old man from Liverpool.

Officers would like to speak to Ammin Hassan, of Selborne Street, in relation to drug offences in the Macclesfield area. Anyone who sees Hassan, or has information regarding his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting 19100580950. Alternatively, information can be given to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>



Police appeal after indecent exposures on Church Lawton canal towpath

Police appeal after indecent exposures on Church Lawton canal towpath

Police are appealing for information following reports of indecent exposure on a canal towpath in Church Lawton. At around 6.30pm on Monday 3 August a woman was jogging along the Trent and Mersey canal when the man who had been cycling along the towpath stopped and exposed himself. Another woman on a canal boat had also spotted the man's behaviour and warned two women walking along the canal. They reported seeing him behind a wall removing his trousers. During the incidents the suspect had cycled toward

Church Lawton and then back toward Kidsgrove. The man is described as white, in his 50s or 60s, of medium build with grey hair. He was wearing a black face mask, black beanie. A blue long sleeved top, or sweatshirt, black trousers and black boots.

Insp Kelly Johnston said: *"If you recognise the description or have seen this man yourself while on the canal towpath I would urge you to contact police. I would advise people who are out and about to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to police."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 770958. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for information after a Knutsford school is vandalised

Police are appealing for information following criminal damage at a school in Knutsford.

Sometime overnight on 31 July two teenagers caused a significant amount of damage to Knutsford Academy in Bexton Road. Roof tiles were taken off the roof and thrown onto the floor and onto the green house smashing every pane of glass. Windows of the school were also damaged along with the lightning conductor and aerials. The first suspect is described as being, white, male and approximately 16-year-old. He is of slim build with brown hair and glasses. He was wearing a black hooded top black jogging bottoms and white trainers. The second suspect is described as white, male, of slim build and approximately 16-years-old. He was wearing a green or dark coloured jumper, a backpack and red jogging bottoms.

PC Luke Rose said: *"The cost of the damage to the school is thought to be in its tens of thousands. The damage caused was so extensive it is unbelievable to think someone would do this to an important part of our community. We are carrying out a number of enquiries including reviewing CCTV. Anyone who knows who is responsible or has information should do the right thing and contact police to help us find the people responsible."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 [or via our website](#) quoting IML 770520. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Public urged to be vigilant following indecent exposures in Birchwood

Officers are asking the public to be vigilant following two indecent exposure incidents at a park in Birchwood.

The first incident happened at around 5.20pm on Saturday 1 August and the second incident took place shortly after 3pm on Sunday 2 August at Walled Garden Oakwood Gate. On the second occasion the man was in bushes before exposing himself to a number of young children. The children ran away and alerted police. The man police want to speak to is described as white, believed to be aged in his 30's and was wearing a black hat, grey jacket and black trousers.

Insp Ruth Atherton, from Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"First I want to reassure the local community that we are working hard to locate this man and people can expect to see officers regularly patrolling the area. While I do not want to panic the public I do want people to be vigilant and I would urge parents not to allow their children go to the park on their own. If anyone knows who this man might be or has information which will assist our investigation I would encourage you to contact us."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 769992 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Detectives appealing for witnesses following assault in Saughall

Detectives are appealing for witnesses following an assault in Saughall, Chester.

Officers were called at around 12.40am on Sunday 12 July following reports of a disturbance on Church Street. A woman sustained a serious injury during the incident and was taken to hospital for treatment. She has since been released from hospital. A 37-year-old man from Chester was arrested on suspicion of a section 47 assault. He has since been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries. Officers are now appealing for any witnesses to come forward as they believe it could help with the investigation.

DC Faye Taylor said: *"We're appealing for anyone who witnessed the incident or has any information, which could assist with our enquiries, to come forward. In particular, we're keen to trace four men who were travelling in two black cars on Church Street shortly after the incident as we believe they could have vital information, which could help with our investigation. If anyone has any information, please contact us on 101 quoting IML 752491 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/>."*

Alternatively, information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 16th August 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man charged following serious assault near Whitchurch

A man has been charged in connection with a serious assault near Whitchurch.

Conor Jagodzinski has been charged with section 18 assault and possession of a knife. The 28-year-old has been remanded in custody and is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 17 August. The charges relate to an incident on Friday 15 August on the A49 on the Cheshire/Shropshire border near to Bradley Green Lane in which a lorry driver sustained serious injuries. He remains in hospital in a serious condition.

Police urge people not to attend illegal raves

Cheshire Constabulary is urging anyone who is considering attending an illegal rave to stay away.

So far, there have only been a handful of incidents in the county, but the force is aware of intelligence to suggest that people may be planning further events this weekend. Officers are actively monitoring a number of locations and anyone who is considering attending an event is urged to stay away.

Superintendent Julie Westgate from Cheshire Police said: *"We know that young people want to go out and socialise with friends, but people need to do this legally and safely. Coronavirus has not gone away and people attending illegal raves are not only putting their own lives at risk, they are also risking the lives of their friends, family and loved ones. I would urge anyone who is planning to attend such an event to think twice. We have a dedicated policing operation in place and we will take every step we can to stop them before they happen. Our teams will be patrolling key locations across the county and they will act on any intelligence they receive regarding any possible events. Officers will continue to use common sense and discretion to determine what is reasonable, with officers engaging, explaining, encouraging and, only as a last resort, enforcing. However, proportionate action will be taken if necessary and this could include the seizure of any music equipment, arrest or even prosecution."*

While some of the coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, legislation remains in place which prevents gatherings of more than 30 people and the public still need to adhere to the two-metre social distancing guidance. There is also specific legislation in place regarding unlicensed music events.

Cheshire PCC David Keane said: *"I understand that it's been a difficult time for everyone, particularly young people who have been unable to socialise with friends due to coronavirus. However, coronavirus has not gone away and we all have a duty to ourselves and each other to stay safe, protect the NHS and save lives. I would urge anyone who is thinking of hosting or attending an illegal rave in Cheshire to stay away."*

Anyone with any information or intelligence in relation to any possible illegal raves is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101.

Police incident in Runcorn

At around 1.20pm on Wednesday 12 August police were called to concerns for the safety of a man at an address in Runcorn.

Officers swiftly attended the scene and located the man at the Knoll. During the incident a police firearm was discharged. The man sustained serious injuries and was taken to hospital.

C/I Sarah Heath, from Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"I would like to reassure the local community that this is an isolated incident and there is no risk to the public. Officers will remain in the area as we continue with our enquiries and I would urge anyone with any concerns to speak to an officer. In line with normal procedure, the incident has been referred to the Independent office for Police Conduct."*

Anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any video footage, is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 778324 [or report using our website](#).

Man charged following aggravated burglary incident in Widnes

A 21-year-old man from Widnes has been charged following an aggravated burglary incident in the town.

Jack Ferguson, of Lingwell Park, was arrested in Francis Close, Widnes, shortly after 11pm on Thursday 16 July. He has subsequently been charged with aggravated burglary. The charge relates to an incident that occurred at a house in Rydal Way, Widnes, at around 10.15pm on Thursday 16 July. Police are currently looking for two other men in connection with the incident. Ferguson appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Saturday 18 July, via a video link. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 17 August, again via a video link.

Residents reminded of the dangers when visiting open water sites across Cheshire

Residents are being warned of the dangers of visiting sites with open water across Cheshire.

With summer underway Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service are asking the public to stay safe when gathering near open water. One incident at Thelwall Ferry led to a 48 hour dispersal order being implemented at the site in order to protect teenagers travelling to the area to congregate.

Superintendent Paul Beauchamp, of Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"We understand that with the warm weather many people could be tempted to take a dip in open water too cool off but residents must be aware of the potential deadly consequences. Going into water can not only endanger your own life but the lives of others around you if they jump in to rescue you. We don't want to discourage people from enjoying themselves near water but want to make it clear that we will use all the powers available to us to protect and inform the public of the dangers across the county."*

Across the UK around 315 people accidentally drown each year with statistics showing that 50% of people who drown had no intention of entering the water.

Nick Evans, Head of Prevention at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: *“It is essential that the public stay aware when they’re around open water. It is important to remember that you could be at risk of drowning even if you do not intend to go in the water. Be sure that you are aware of local safety information, look out for any hazards and adhere to warning signs nearby. If you do get into trouble in water, remember to not panic, float on your back and make a star shape if you cannot stand up. Then, when it is safe to do so, either call for help or swim to safety.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire said: *“Water safety is key issue all year round but it is especially important during the summer months. It is vitally important that people heed of this advice any keep themselves and others safe. By alerting people to the risks, I hope that everyone will stay aware when venturing near rivers, lakes and canals across the county.”*

Key safety advice:

- Wear sturdy footwear whenever you are near open water to lessen your chances of falling in
- If you are going out to exercise near open water make sure that you tell someone where you are going and when you will be back
- Make sure that you are familiar with local safety information regarding waterways, look out for any hazards and adhere by any signage
- Stick to proper paths when walking by open water and bear in mind social distancing ahead of venturing out to exercise – often paths along canals and rivers are narrow
- Your children need to be supervised at all times when they are near open water
- Never enter open water to try to help a person or animal – always call 999 and use any water rescue equipment if it is available.

For more information and water safety advice please visit <https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/public-safety/outdoor-safety/water-safety>

Man charged with four offences following incident in Widnes

A 41-year-old man has been charged with four offences following an incident in Widnes.

Yan Marzelos was arrested in Monarch Court, Queens Avenue, shortly after midnight on Saturday 8 August. He has since been charged with assault by beating, affray, causing criminal damage and threatening a person with an offensive weapon in a public place. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in Monarch Court shortly before Marzelos was arrested. A 25-year-old man from Widnes sustained a minor head injury as a result of the incident that did not require hospital treatment. Marzelos, of Monarch Court, appeared at Warrington Magistrates’ Court, via a video link, on Monday 10 August. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 7 September.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following fatal collision in Warmingham

Officers are appealing for more information following a fatal collision in Warmingham.

Just before 11.10am on Wednesday 12 August police were called to School Lane following reports of a collision involving a white Ford transit van and a red Fiat 500. The driver of the Ford transit van, a 50-year-old man from Middlewich, died at the scene. His next of kin have been informed. The driver of the Fiat 500 was taken to hospital with minor injuries. Officers are now appealing to trace the drivers of a white flatbed van and a red polo that travelled through the location prior to the collision. Police are also keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the collision or may have any dashcam footage of the vehicle before the incident to come forward. Anyone with any information is urged to call 101 quoting IML 778236 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/> Alternatively anyone with information can report to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Appeal for witnesses following reports of a car theft near Chester

Detectives from Cheshire Police are appealing for information following reports of a car theft in Christleton.

Sometime between 1pm and 2pm on Friday 7 August a man was sitting in a grey Peugeot 208 on Sandrock Road when he was approached by three unknown men. The men are alleged to have threatened the driver and ordered him to get out of the car. They then got into the vehicle and drove off. The victim, a local man, sustained minor injuries and received hospital treatment.

DC Carl Humphreys said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident. I'm particularly keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation. I'd ask anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Chester on 101 quoting 20000476231."*

Information can also be [reported online via our website](#), or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Renewed appeal for information following fatal collision near Chester

Officers investigating a fatal collision near Chester have renewed their appeal for information.

The collision involving a heavy goods vehicle and a pedestrian occurred on the A41 Whitchurch Road in Chowley at around 4.40am on Friday 7 August. Officers attended the scene and discovered that the pedestrian, a woman in her 40s from the Chester area, had sustained serious injuries. Sadly, she died at the scene. Her family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the HGV, a 49-year-old man from Beechwood, Merseyside, is not believed to have sustained any injuries as a result of the collision. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing. The enquiries carried out so far make officers believe that the pedestrian was involved in an earlier collision on the A41, further north near Dragon Hall. She is believed to have got out of a damaged black Peugeot car and made her way to the second collision location on foot.

Anyone who witnessed either collision or believes that they saw the woman walking along the road in the early hours of Friday 7 August is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 773654, or give the

details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. The same goes for anyone who thinks they have dashcam footage that may be relevant to the ongoing investigation.

Appeal after boy has his bicycle stolen in Widnes robbery

Officers are appealing for information and footage from members of the public after a teenage boy had his bicycle stolen in a robbery in Widnes.

The victim, a 13-year-old from the town, was riding his black and blue Norco mountain bike along Sandy Lane when the incident occurred at around 6.30pm on Saturday 8 August. An unknown male approached the boy from behind, threatened him and demanded the bike. The offender then rode off on the bike towards Old Upton Lane before turning in the direction of Queensbury Way. He was white and looked to be around 17 to 20 years old and approximately 6' 2" tall. The offender had a slim build, thick stubble on the sides of his face and spoke with a Liverpool accent. He was wearing a black hoodie with grey arms, black shorts and black trainers. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage regarding the robbery, the offender or the whereabouts of the stolen mountain bike to get in touch.

PC Danielle Howcroft, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"The young victim has understandably been left shaken up by this frightening incident. I would like to reassure members of the community that we are determined to establish who committed the robbery, make him face the consequences of his actions and have the stolen mountain bike returned to its rightful owner. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything that may help our investigation to contact us at Widnes Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offender is, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of him. We also want to speak to anyone who believes they may have seen the stolen mountain bike since the robbery took place, or have information regarding its whereabouts."*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 775112, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for help in tracing wanted Runcorn man

Officers are appealing to the public for help in tracing a 29-year-old man from Runcorn who is wanted in connection with failing to appear in court, assault and harassment.

Joshua Childs has links to the Runcorn and St Helens areas. Anyone who sees Joshua Childs, or has information on his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 734469 or [visit the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 [or through their website](#).



To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 23rd August 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

New Chief Inspector for Crewe Local Policing Unit

Crewe Local Policing Unit has welcomed its new Chief Inspector Fez Khan.

Fez originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2005, having graduated from Sheffield Hallam University where he studied Law. During his career he has worked in a variety of operational roles across the county. While he was an Inspector, Fez worked as the Beat Management Inspector in Runcorn where he has spent the last three years of his service. Before this he worked as one of the force's Critical Incident Managers. Fez has also spent time working on a short term secondment to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) where he worked in its PEEL inspection team visiting several forces across the UK.



In January 2019 Fez also had the privilege to attend the 275th session of the FBI National Academy where for three months he undertook a course of study in Leadership, Law Enforcement techniques and physical fitness. He is also the Chairperson of Cheshire Constabulary's Multicultural Network where he works to support the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion agenda for the force and provide welfare support to members and other officers and staff alike. Fez is also one of Cheshire's Hostage and Crisis Negotiators and an accredited Public Order Bronze Commander.

Fez joins the command team at Crewe LPU which includes Detective Inspector Claire Jesson, Insp Andrew Smith (Beat Management) and Insp's Julien Culham and Nick Rogers (Response).

Fez said: "I have been with the Constabulary for over 15 years and I am incredibly proud to be joining the hard working team here at Crewe LPU as the LPU Commander. I look forward to getting to know the team here and the local community to ensure Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach and its surrounding towns and villages continue to be safe places to live and work. As Chief Inspector, my focus will be to ensure that my teams continue to work alongside our partners and our diverse communities to make Crewe LPU even safer. We will robustly target those that cause our communities harm and prey upon the vulnerable and make Crewe a hostile place to be for those intent on perpetrating crime and anti-social behaviour. I encourage residents to report any issues via 101, online or in person via local PCSO surgeries should they have any concerns they wish to make us aware of."

Outside of work Fez lives with his fiancée who is also a serving officer. He is a keen golfer and enjoys walking and spending time with family and friends.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane said: *"I'm sure Fez will be a great addition to the team at Crewe LPU and that residents will welcome his appointment as their chief inspector, just as they did with Chief*

Inspector Simon Newell. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm, who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve."

Convicted drug dealer ordered to sell his Warrington home and pay back ill-gotten gains

A convicted drug dealer from Warrington has been ordered to sell his home and pay back more than £45,000 of his ill-gotten gains.

Daniel Lockley, 36, was jailed for three years on Friday 14 February after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine and cannabis. The case against Lockley began when officers found packages of cocaine in the BMW car he was driving shortly before midnight on Wednesday 15 January. The officers also discovered scales, plastic bags that illegal drugs are sold in and a list of buyers and the money they owed when the car was searched in Reaper Close, Great Sankey, Warrington. In addition, a bag containing two large packages of cannabis were found nearby.



Lockley was subsequently arrested and search warrants were executed at his house in Willoughby Close, Warrington, as well as at an address in the town he has links with, in Livingstone Close. Significant quantities of cannabis were seized from both houses. The total street value of the class A and B drugs seized from the properties, and in and near the car Lockley was driving, was estimated at £32,305. While in police custody, Lockley admitted that all the drugs belonged to him. He initially claimed that he possessed the drugs for personal use, but forensic examination of mobile phones belonging to Lockley revealed numerous drug-related messages, including offers to sell cocaine and cannabis.

Lockey was jailed at Liverpool Crown Court. He returned to the court for a proceeds of crime confiscation hearing on Friday 14 August. The court heard that a thorough financial investigation conducted by Cheshire Constabulary had revealed that Lockey made a large amount of money from this drug dealing activities. He was given a confiscation order to sell his home in Willoughby Close and pay back a total of £47,070. Lockey has three months to pay the money or he will be handed a default 12-month prison sentence.

DC Ian Morris, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"Daniel Lockley was brought to justice after officers seized cocaine with an estimated street value of £17,200 and cannabis with an estimated street value of £15,105 after deciding to search a car they had seen him driving at speed in Warrington. The confiscation investigation was conducted in tandem with the criminal investigation, and I would like to thank all those involved for their hard work in uncovering the extent of Lockley's ill-gotten gains over a significant period of time. At Cheshire Constabulary we have a role of ensuring that crime does not pay. Thanks to the confiscation order that have been imposed by Liverpool Crown Court, we have achieved that goal in relation to Lockey."*

A proportion of the money will come back to Cheshire Constabulary to be used to fight crime. It will also be used to boost community projects and steer people away from a life of crime.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"The Proceeds of Crime Act ensures that money seized from criminals is put to good use, helping to keep our communities safe. Criminal activity ruins lives and communities, and I am committed to ensuring that money seized from offending is reinvested back into our communities to discourage people from making the same mistakes. My Safer Communities Fund takes the money seized*

underneath the Proceeds of Crime Act in Cheshire and reinvests it back into local community groups, via small grants, so that they can make their area a safer place to live, work and visit."

Chief Inspector Simon Meegan, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, added: *"Illegal drugs blight communities across the UK and cause untold damage to the lives of both those who use the drugs and become dependent on them and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. Drug dealing in Warrington or elsewhere in Cheshire will not be tolerated, and I hope this case deters others from getting involved in the supply of illegal drugs. While this investigation has now concluded, our fight against illegal drugs, and those who supply them, continues and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter."*

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 [or giving the details online via our website](#). Alternatively, information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Chester cyclists urged to keep bikes secure

Police in Chester are urging cyclists to ensure that their bicycles are kept secure at all the times following a spate of thefts in the city centre.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, more people than ever are travelling to the city centre via the bikes. This is great for the environment, but unfortunately criminals have also started to take advantage of the situation. Since the start of August officers have received at least 10 reports of bikes being stolen after they were left unattended and not secure in the city centre.

Sergeant Andy Davies, of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *"It's fantastic to see more people visiting the city on their bikes. However, it's important that they do everything they can to reduce their chances of falling victim to these unscrupulous thieves. There are various anti-theft measures people can take, such as ensuring that your bike is kept secure at all times. When parking your bike you should always ensure that it is left in a visible location and secured with a heavy duty bike lock. Meanwhile, bike marking kits make it difficult for thieves to sell stolen bicycles on. They enable officers to identify the rightful owner so that it can easily be returned. Seeing a bike with a property marking sticker will make it a less attractive target for thieves."*

Cheshire PCC David Keane added: *"It's great to see more people returning to our city and town centres. However, we need to do this safely. I urge anyone who is planning to visit shops and restaurants to ensure that they follow all the guidance that is currently in place, including adhering social distancing, and wearing masks where appropriate. I also urge cyclists to keep their bikes secure when out shopping and socialising. By working together, and following the guidelines, we can all help to control the virus and save lives."*

Anyone with any information regarding bikes being stolen is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man charged following incident at Chester convenience store

A 34-year-old man from Chester has been charged with five offences following an incident at a convenience store in the city.

Carl Newman, of Blacon Point Road, was arrested in Brook Street, Chester, at around 9.40pm on Tuesday 18 August. He has since been charged with burglary, theft from a shop, two counts of common assault and a public order offence. The charges relate to an incident that occurred at a convenience store in Brook Street on the same night. No-one required medical attention as a result of the incident. Newman has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court, via a video link, on Thursday 20 August.

Man sentenced after stealing bikes in Warrington

A man has been jailed for eight months following a spate of bike thefts in Warrington town centre.

Alan Reid, of Winmarleigh Street, stole five bikes from outside shops at the Cockhedge Shopping Park. The 49-year-old admitted to his crimes and was sentenced at Warrington Magistrates Court on Friday 14 August. Another man, Steven Littlewood, 54, of Folly Lane in Warrington, was given a 12 week sentence suspended for 12 months for his role in stealing the bikes. The thefts took place between Saturday 1 August and Thursday 13 August. Reid would use a bolt cropper to snap the locks, take the bikes to Littlewood and then both men would cycle away. However on Thursday 13 August a member of security at the shopping park spotted Reid using the equipment to break a bike lock and alerted police. Local officers and Warrington's Problem Solving Team swiftly attended to the scene and both men were arrested with Reid still in possession of the bolt cropper.

Sergeant Alex Reeves, from Warrington's Problem Solving Team, said: *"This was a great team effort from the problem solving team who worked with response officers and the beat management team. I must also praise the member of the public who caught Reid red handed and quickly alerted police. Reid is a career criminal who never gives a second thought to the people he is stealing from. However we understand how crimes like these affect the public and we will continue to pursue these criminals to see them put before the court."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"We must not underestimate the impact these types of offences have on the victims and on communities. Well done to the member of the public who spotted Reid committing this crime and instantly reported it, and to the officers who swiftly put a stop to their actions."*

Cheshire officers using new tool to combat caravan and motorhome thefts

Cheshire Constabulary is using a new tool to aid the force's fight against caravan and motorhome thieves.

The VIN CHIP anti-theft identification system enables officers to scan a touring caravan or motorhome from up to 15 metres away to see if it has been reported as stolen and find out who the registered owner is. They can be scanned at speeds of up to 60mph. Cheshire's Roads and Crime Unit officers are now using the system, and owners of touring caravans and motorhomes across the county are being advised to ensure that they have a VIN CHIP fitted and are registered with the Caravan Registration and Identification Scheme (CRiS).



Inspector Anton Sullivan, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Due to supply and demand, the number of caravan and motorhome theft incidents tend to rise in the summer months. This year the demand for them is*

even greater than normal, with travel restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic making staycations, mobile homes and caravan holidays more popular than ever. So we could not have asked for a better time to add the VIN CHIP scanning system to our armoury for when we are out on patrol and monitoring our roads. Used by many other police forces in the UK, ports officers and also in mainland Europe and Scandinavia, it has substantially increased the number of stolen caravans and motorhomes that have been recovered and returned to their rightful owner.”

Since 2008 a radio frequency chip containing a unique vehicle identification number (VIN) number has been embedded into all UK-approved touring caravans when they have been made. Owners of older caravans can have one fitted at a relatively small cost, and owners of caravans made between 2008 and 2016 can pay to have their chip upgraded so that it works as well as the newer ones. This may have an insurance benefit with some companies. Motorhome owners can also pay to have a VIN CHIP fitted, and some manufacturers are now embedding them into all their new motorhomes.

Insp Sullivan added: *“Working like a speed gun, a VIN CHIP scanner enables an officer to quickly see if a caravan or motorhome on the move has been reported as stolen, and who the registered owner is. Once a caravan or motorhome has been identified as stolen we will endeavour to bring the thief, or thieves, to justice, and have it returned to its owner. Our officers are now using the system to this end across Cheshire. However, the system will not work for touring caravan or motorhome theft victims unless they have a VIN CHIP fitted. Touring caravan and motorhome owners are advised to have a VIN Chip fitted and to have the vehicle registered with CRIS to help their mobile home be located in the event of it being stolen.”*

Cheshire Constabulary’s other security advice for caravan and motorhome owners is:

- Ensure they are kept secure at all times, with all doors, windows and roof windows closed and locked
- Remember to fit hitch locks, wheel clamps and immobilisers to your caravan as required as part of your insurance, even when it is in storage or you are on holiday
- Hitch locks lock a car and a touring caravan together when on-site or at temporary stops en route – the law allows you to tow with the lock in place providing that the hitch still rotates correctly
- Wheel locks have the dual purpose of being a visual deterrent and an anti-theft device – the best ones will still work even if your touring caravan’s tyres have been let down by thieves
- Look for Sold Secure Gold or Diamond standard wheel locks – often locks that are easy to fit are also easy to remove
- Never store any valuables in your caravan or motorhome – those you take away on holiday with you should be marked with your postcode, as should any accessories you use, such as water carriers, tables, satellite dishes etc
- Always store caravans and motorhomes in a safe and secure location
- Leaving your caravan or motorhome in an area covered by CCTV and good quality lighting will deter thieves, as will leaving the hitch head parked inwards and the caravan blocked in and difficult to remove – consider security posts to keep your van even more secure
- If you are thinking of keeping a caravan in a storage site, check if your insurer has a preferred site
- Before choosing a storage site for your caravan, check online to see what crimes have been reported there and how easy it is to pick up your caravan and if the site operator checks your details
- When holidaying in a touring caravan or motorhome, try to use registered sites which have a good level of security, such as CCTV cameras

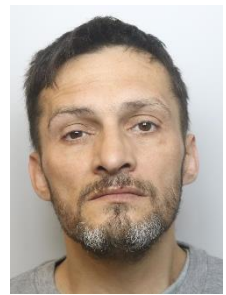
- Installing a GPS vehicle tracker could help to locate your caravan or motorhome in the event of it being stolen – if you have such a system make sure that your subscription is paid
- If you have an alarm, set it – these are often linked to the GPS tracking monitoring company and can give early notice of theft
- Keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously where your caravan or motorhome is stored, and ask your neighbours to do the same – all suspicions concerning thieves targeting caravans or motorhomes should be reported to the police.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“I am delighted to hear that Cheshire Constabulary has a new tool to help officers catch caravan and motorhome thieves and recover stolen vehicles. Opportunist thieves could not only potentially ruin someone’s staycation but could also put touring caravan and motorhome owners at risk of losing thousands of pounds if their vehicle is stolen. I urge all caravan and motorhome owners across the county to follow the advice from Cheshire Constabulary and check the security of their vehicles.”*

Anyone with any information or footage regarding the theft of caravans or motorhomes is asked to call Constabulary on 101, [give the details via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for 10 years following series of burglaries across Cheshire and Greater Manchester

A man has been jailed for 10 years following a series of burglaries across Cheshire and Greater Manchester.



Tony Lock, of Church Street, Leigh, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 12 August for six counts of burglary and conspiracy to handle stolen goods in the Warrington area. He was also sentenced for burglary, theft and fraud offences committed in the Bolton area between March 2019 and May 2019. The 45-year-old had pleaded guilty to all offences at earlier hearings. His partner Lauren O’Hara, 36, of Whitegate Avenue, Culcheth, was handed an 18-month sentence suspended for two years for her role in handling items stolen in the burglaries in Warrington.

The court heard how Lock’s spree began in March 2019 in Bolton and continued into Cheshire in June 2019. Officers became aware of the burglaries when they spotted a stolen Ford B-Max car parked up outside a shop in Leigh on 7 June. Inside the shop the pair attempted to buy items with a bank card which had been stolen from a property earlier that day. When arrested, Lock was found in possession of two sets of car keys, bank cards and a mobile phone. O’Hara was found in possession of cash, a watch, a sat nav and a bank card. A further search of the car revealed more items which had been reported stolen to police. The pair were arrested and, following an investigation, they were subsequently charged and remanded into custody.

DC Michael McDermott said: *“This is a fantastic result and reflects the hard work and commitment shown by the Warrington Beat Initiative Team following a lengthy investigation into burglaries in the town. I am pleased that Lock is behind bars for these offences and I hope that this acts as a deterrent to those who think they can get away with this type of crime. I would like to thank our colleagues at Greater Manchester Police for their help with the case. Residents are reminded to remain vigilant and always ensure that their vehicles and homes are secure to make it as difficult as possible for criminals to target them.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“Everyone has the right to feel safe in their homes. Offences like this*

have a devastating impact on victims and on the wider community. I would like to praise the work of all those who were involved this investigation and helped to deliver justice for the victims. I hope that this outcome allows the victims to move forward with their lives and provides reassurance to local residents.”

Anyone with any information about burglaries or theft offences should report it to Cheshire Police by calling 101, or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/> Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers, anonymously, via 0800 555 111 or by visiting <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information and footage following fatal collision in Handforth

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision in Handforth.

The incident on Dean Road involved a black Suzuki Grand Vitara car and a cyclist. It was reported to the police at around 1am on Saturday 22 August. Officers attended the scene and discovered that the cyclist had sustained serious injuries. Sadly, the 43-year-old man local man was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. His family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the SUV car stopped at the scene following the collision. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and no arrests have been made. Officers want to speak to anyone who was in the area and witnessed the collision or anything else that may help their investigation. They also want to hear from any motorists who believe they may have captured relevant footage on their dashcams. Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 786461, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> .

Appeal for information following attempted dog theft in Edge Green

Detectives from Chester are appealing for information from the public following the attempted theft of a dog in Edge Green, near Broxton.

At around 7.45pm on Tuesday 18 August a 55-year-old woman was walking the pet, a white Maltese terrier, along Hall Lane when a white transit-style van pulled up alongside her. A man then got out of the passenger door, approached the victim and demanded that she hand over the dog. The woman refused and instead picked up the dog and held it against her chest. Following a short struggle between the offender and the woman, the driver of the van got out of the vehicle and told the passenger to get back inside. They then drove off along Hall Lane, travelling towards the A41 Whitchurch Road. The man who attempted to take the dog was white and is estimated to be in his 50s. He had a medium build, spoke with an Irish accent and was wearing a T-shirt and grey jogging bottoms. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with an information that may help their investigation to get in touch.

DC Tom Philpotts, of Chester CID, said: *“The victim has understandably been left shaken up by the ordeal. I would like to reassure members of the community that we are committed to doing all we can to trace the men in the van. As part of our investigation we want to speak to anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have witnessed something relevant. We are also keen to hear from*

anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation. The A41 is a particularly busy road and I believe that a number of motorists may have dashcam footage of the men fleeing the scene in the white van. I would also like to hear from anyone who is aware of any similar incidents in the area. I ask anyone with any such footage or information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Chester on 101, quoting IML 783825."

Information can also be [reported online on the Cheshire Constabulary website](#). Alternatively, information can be given to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 [or via the Crimestoppers website](#).

Appeal to help trace man wanted in connection with serious incident in Widnes

Detectives from Widnes CID are appealing to members of the public to help trace a man who may be able to assist with their enquiries in relation to a serious incident in the town.

James Price is 23-years-old and from the Merseyside area. He is described as white, of medium build and around 5' 9" tall. He has brown eyes and dark brown hair. Price was last known to be living in the Merseyside area, but he has links with a number of other places across the UK, including St Helens, Warrington, Leeds and South Yorkshire.



DCI Clare Coleman said: *"We are looking to speak to Price in connection with a serious incident in Widnes, in which a firearm was discharged, and it is essential that we speak to him as soon as possible. I would ask anyone with information regarding his whereabouts to get in touch. I also appeal directly to Price to contact us so that we can progress our investigation."*

Anyone with any information in relation to Price's whereabouts is urged to contact Cheshire Constabulary immediately on 999, quoting IML 770663. Alternatively, if you do not want to speak to the police, information can be reported anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following burglary of bikes and cycling equipment in Lymm

Officers are appealing for information and CCTV footage following a burglary in Lymm.

At sometime between 9.30pm on Wednesday 12 August and 8.50am on Thursday 13 August, unknown offenders are believed to have forced entry into a garage on Sandmoor Place. Several bicycles were taken including: a lime green Canondale SuperSix racing bike; a silver coloured Sabbath September racing bike; a black Specialised Stumpjumper; a white Genesis Day One bike; an orange Giro helmet and a black Kask Protone helmet. Officers are now appealing for anyone who may have captured CCTV or may have information regarding the burglary to get in touch.



PC Rebecca Jubb said: *"We have been following several lines of enquiry in relation to this burglary and are doing everything we can to find those responsible. As part of our investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who may have CCTV or dashcam footage from the Sandmoor Place area around the time of the incident. Also I would urge anyone who may have seen these items or may have been offered the bikes to get in touch with us so that we can return the property to the victim. I would also like to urge residents to ensure that all sheds, vehicles and homes are secured and locked to make it as difficult as possible for offenders to target your property."*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 779073 or report it to us via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or [report it through their website](#). For more information on how to protect your property from burglary, visit [the Cheshire Police crime prevention page](#).

Appeal after man sustains serious facial injuries in unprovoked assault in Widnes

Officers investigating a serious assault in Widnes are urging witnesses to come forward.

The incident began in the passageway between Scott Avenue and Foxley Heath at around 8.10pm on Tuesday 4 August. It then continued into Scott Avenue. The victim, a 47-year-old man from Widnes, was threatened by a teenager as he walked along the passageway. The boy, who was part of a large group of young people, then hit the victim in the head with a metal bar. The victim attempted to flee, running along Scott Avenue in the direction of Lowerhouse Lane. He was chased by two members of the group. One of them kicked him in the knees before another member of the group hit him in the back of the head. The offender who kicked the victim in the knees then punched him in the face. The victim sustained serious facial injuries as a result of the incident that required hospital treatment. He has since been discharged from hospital.

The boy who hit him with the metal bar is described as white, around 16 years old and approximately 5' 4" tall. He was wearing a grey hooded top with the hood up and the drawstrings pulled tight. The two members of the group who chased after the victim when he attempted to flee were both white and looked approximately 19 years old. The one who assaulted him was around 5' 7" tall and had straight blond hair. The other was around

an inch shorter and had brown hair. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help their investigation to get in touch.

PC Lesley Walkowiak, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *“This was an unprovoked assault that left the victim with serious facial injuries and extremely shaken up. He does not know the males who assaulted him, or the larger group of young people they were with. I would like to reassure members of the community that we are determined to establish the identities of the males who assaulted the victim and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and witnessed the incident to contact us at Widnes Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 772163, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal after offenders assault a man and steal money from him in Runcorn

Officers are appealing for information from members of the public after a man was assaulted and had money stolen from him in Runcorn.

The victim, a 31-year-old from Warrington, was walking along a footpath in Norton when the incident occurred at around 8pm on Friday 14 August. After being asked for a light by a group of three males walking in the opposite direction, he dropped a quantity of cash. The group then assaulted him and stole his money before fleeing in the direction of Runcorn East Railway Station. The victim is believed to have only sustained minor injuries as a result of the incident. He did not go to hospital.

The group of males all looked to be around 20 years old. One of them was wearing a full blue Adidas tracksuit. He was white, had a muscular looking face and spoke with a Liverpudlian accent. Another of the group was also white. He was wearing blue Nike shorts and a T-shirt, as well as a surgical-type face covering. The third member of the group had a bubble jacket on. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

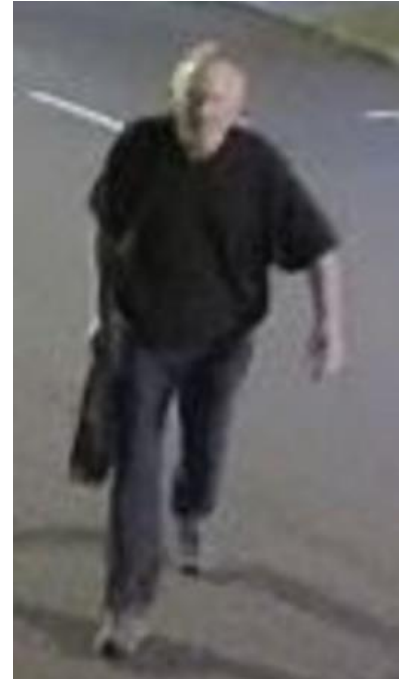
PC Amy Lally, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *“This was a frightening incident that has understandably left the victim shaken up. I would like to reassure members of the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish the identities of the three males and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything that may help our investigation to contact us at Runcorn Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the group of males are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 780565, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

CCTV image released in connection with criminal damage in Prestbury

Police have released CCTV images of a man they would like to speak to in connection with criminal damage at shops in Prestbury.

Between 00.50am and 1.10am on Wednesday 29 July a number of premises had their windows smashed in the village. Officers have been following a number of lines of enquiry and would like to speak to the man in the CCTV image. They are asking anyone who recognises him or has information regarding his whereabouts to get in touch. If you can assist officers with their investigation please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 766256 [or through our website](#). Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 30 August 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Historic murder/suicide cases - Updated statement

Cheshire Constabulary is aware of numerous news articles suggesting the possibility of a link between five historic murder/suicides cases comprising of two incidents in Cheshire, two in Greater Manchester and one in Cumbria.

DCSupt Aaron Duggan said: *"These articles were based upon a report completed by a member of Police staff working in the Coroner's Office in Cheshire. The report was not approved by either the Constabulary or the Coroner's office. Some media reports have referred to the author as a Senior Coroner or Coroner and this is factually incorrect. The circumstances by which the report was shared with the media are subject to an internal review. The contents of the report and its conclusions are being considered by detectives. At this time, there is no reason to believe that the cases were not investigated by the Police appropriately. They were also the subject of inquests. For these reasons, the Constabulary has not re-opened the cases, however this decision will remain under review. The media coverage has caused distress to families of the deceased. We are offering support to the individuals who have been involved directly in these cases and will continue to do so."*

Merseyside drug dealer jailed after supplying class A drugs in Ellesmere Port

A Merseyside man who frequently travelled into Ellesmere Port to supply class A drugs has been jailed.

John Chong, aged 39, would meet drugs users in his car or visit their houses to supply them with crack cocaine and heroin. Today, Friday 28 August, he was sentenced to three years at Chester Crown Court for being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and heroin after admitting to the offence at an earlier hearing. His activity was observed by detectives from Cheshire's Serious and Organised Crime Unit between 19 August 2019 and 14 November 2019. The surveillance found Chong, of Prophet Walk, to be regularly visiting a house on Hope Farm Road in Ellesmere Port. On 13 November 2019 officers executed a warrant at the address and Chong was found inside along with crack cocaine, heroin and paraphernalia associated with drug dealing. The digital scales and knife were being used to divide the drugs into smaller street deals for onward supply.

Prosecuting the case, Oliver King told the court that 31 deals of the cocaine recovered were just the 'tip of the iceberg'. It represented only some of the amounts couriered and distributed by Chong over three months. After being arrested Chong was medically examined and evidence suggested he was also storing the drugs in his body. Chong advertised the availability of drugs by sending a flare message on his mobile phone to multiple people.

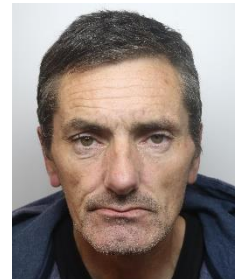
DS Mark Naylor said: *"Chong's purpose for coming into Ellesmere Port was to profit from the supply of crack cocaine and heroin. He would not only meet users in his car but use their homes to set up a drugs den, allowing him to produce and store the drugs ready to supply to customers in the town. By tracking Chong's movements*

we were able to take action and gather further evidence resulting in him admitting to his involvement in drug dealing and being put behind bars. We relentlessly pursue those involved in drug related crime in Ellesmere Port and this is a positive step in making the area a safer place for those who live in the community.”

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“The proactive police work has led to a drug dealer being taken off our streets. Officers work incredibly hard to remove drug dealing from our community and I am pleased to hear this latest operation has put another dangerous criminal behind bars.”*

Chester man jailed following burglary spree in the city

A 44-year-old man from Chester has been jailed after admitting carrying out a series of burglaries across the city.



Stephen Collins, of Hatton Road, broke into homes in Gladstone Avenue, Sealand Road, Newton Lane and Dickson Drive. He stole large quantities of valuable items and cash during the crime spree between the Fridays of 10 July and 24 July. One of the victims saw Collins leaving his address as he returned home. Collins managed to flee, but the description that the victim gave of him matched CCTV footage that officers gathered of a man who had been in the area.

An officer recognised the man in the footage as Collins and colleagues subsequently went to his home on Sunday 26 July. Collins ran out of the back of his house when the officers arrived. He was chased across the back of a number of neighbouring properties before being arrested and having his home searched. A large number of items stolen during the burglaries were recovered from his home, and the shoes he was wearing when he was arrested matched footprints at the scenes of some of the crimes. In addition, further CCTV footage gathered by the police showed Collins with Kai Davis when the 21-year-old man used bank cards stolen from one of the burglaries, in Newton Lane, to buy cigarettes from shops.

Davies, of Lynwood Road, Chester, was also arrested on Sunday 26 July. When questioned in custody, he admitted fraudulently using the stolen bank cards at five shops in the Chester area. Davies was subsequently charged with fraud and receiving stolen goods.

Collins denied being responsible for the burglary offences when he was questioned in custody. However, after being presented with all the evidence that officers had gathered against him, he pleaded guilty to five counts of burglary. Collins was sentenced for the offences at Chester Crown Court on Monday 24 August. He was jailed for three years and ordered to pay a £190 victim surcharge.

Davies was sentenced at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 28 July after pleading guilty to the offences he was charged with. He was sentenced to a total of 22 weeks in prison and ordered to pay a £128 victim surcharge. Two of the weeks were imposed for breaching a suspended prison sentence.

DC Tom Philpotts, who led the investigation into the burglaries on behalf of Chester Local Policing Unit, said: *“I am pleased that Stephen Collins and Kai Davis are now both behind bars facing the consequences of their actions. Collins burgled five properties in Chester – two on Sealand Road – and during his crime spree he stole large quantities of cash and valuable items, including laptops, jewellery, bikes, cameras, bags and perfumes. Burglary is a serious offence in which victims are targeted in their own home, which is the place that they should be able to feel most safe. No-one was at home when Collins committed the offences, but unfortunately for him one of the victims saw him as he was leaving the man's address. This subsequently led*

to Collins being identified, arrested and brought to justice, as well as stolen property being returned to their rightful owners. It is always a deeply upsetting experience being the victim of a burglary, but I hope that the victims of this case can move on from the upset now that Collins and Davis have both been convicted and jailed for their offences. I also hope that this case deters others from committing similar offences."

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home. Offences like this have a devastating impact on victims and on the wider community. I would like to praise the work of all the officers who were involved this investigation and helped to deliver justice for the victims. I hope that the outcomes of this case allows the victims to move forward with their lives and provides reassurance to local residents."*

Warning issued following resurgence of scam phone calls purporting to be from Microsoft

Detectives are urging people to stay vigilant following several reports of scam phone calls purporting to be from Microsoft.

In Cheshire there have been several reports of residents receiving phone calls from fraudsters posing as workers from Microsoft. The scammers claim to be computer security engineers and tell victims that their computers are at a security risk. They then say that a security check needs to be performed and if the victim agrees, the scammers can then gain remote access to the computer. This access allows fraudsters to obtain personal details about the victims including their bank account.

DS Chris Jacques, of the Economic Crime Unit, said: *"This is a particularly heinous crime whereby scammers target the most vulnerable in society. This scam has seen a resurgence over the years but as time goes on, fraudsters can use more sophisticated techniques in order to persuade victims to hand over money or gain access to their computers. These fraudsters are often extremely convincing and pose as working for a reputable company as it gives them more credibility. We are doing all we can to tackle all types of fraud and I would urge anyone who believes that they have been a victim of this scam to please report it to Cheshire Constabulary and Action Fraud."*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *"Fraud not only leaves victims without their hard earned money, it also has a significant emotional impact. As Police and Crime Commissioner, I will continue to ensure that action is taken against scammers who are so heartlessly targeting the vulnerable in Cheshire. I would urge residents to follow the key advice and please continue to educate and inform elderly family members about these scams."*

Key advice:

- Computer firms such as Microsoft do not make unsolicited phone calls to help fix your computer or fix a security risk.
- Treat all unsolicited phone calls with scepticism and never give out any personal information.
- Computer companies will not ask for credit card information to validate copies of software or ask for ID such as a driving licence or passport.

Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or have been a victim of fraud should call Cheshire Police on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Information can also be reported online via the [Cheshire Police website](#).

Man jailed after shooting innocent passer-by in Ellesmere Port

A man who shot an innocent passer-by in Ellesmere Port on a busy Saturday afternoon has been sentenced to 15 years in jail.

Liam Cameron, aged 26, pulled the trigger in the town centre missing his intended target and hitting the leg of a 66-year-old man. He was actually attempting to fire at a 31-year-old man after pulling the gun from his waistband and pointing it at the man's face down an alleyway. On Wednesday 26 August Cameron was told he must serve seven years and six months of his term before he can be considered for parole. He was sentenced for two counts of grievous bodily harm with intent, possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear or violence and being concerned in the supply of class A drugs. He will be eligible for parole after serving seven years and six months in prison. Cameron was sentenced at Chester Crown Court after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing.

Shortly before the shooting took place on Saturday 30 November 2019, Cameron, of Camden Road in Ellesmere Port, had intimidated his intended victim by cycling outside a sandwich shop after seeing him inside. The victim saw Cameron heading down the alleyway and he left the shop to confront him. Meanwhile, as the confrontation took place, the innocent member of the public was walking down Enfield Road when he heard a loud bang. He felt a sudden impact to his leg, which he described as being hit by a sledgehammer, and he fell to the floor. His injuries were so significant that he required surgery after 30 pellets were lodged at the bottom of his leg, however only one could be safely removed. The bullet hit the shopping bag he was carrying and caused the items to explode.

The shooting took place when a large number of people, including two children, were in the area at the time. Officers were quickly deployed to the scene and the town was cordoned off while paramedics treated the victim and he was taken to hospital. Cameron had immediately fled on his bike and hid from police at his girlfriend's home in Bromborough. He was arrested by officers the following day and subsequently charged. On sentencing Cameron, Judge Everett described him as a 'gangster with a gun'.

DI Nigel Parr, of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *"Cameron intended to cause serious harm to his target but missed and injured an innocent passer-by instead. The injuries the victim sustained were extremely serious and he will live with the consequences of that for the rest of his life. It is likely that the shopping the man was carrying helped save him from greater harm as it bore the brunt of the blast before hitting his leg. Cameron fired his weapon, without a thought for the people in the area and left the town in fear. His actions were nothing short of reckless and dangerous. Although both men will always be reminded of what happened that day, it is perhaps pure luck that no-one suffered life-threatening injuries or worse, lost their life. I want to thank everyone who played a part in ensuring a dangerous man has been taken off the streets and putting him behind bars for a very long time."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"This incident terrified the local community and my thoughts are with the man who was injured. I want to take this opportunity to praise all the officers involved in catching Cameron and ensuring justice was served for both men and the wider community."*

Widnes man jailed following knife attack on his partner's ex-boyfriend

A man from Widnes has been jailed after attacking his partner's ex-boyfriend with a knife in the town.

Connor Wright, of Avondale Drive, was sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 25 August for assaulting a person and causing them actual body harm and possessing a knife in a public place. The 25-year-old was jailed for 12 months and ordered to pay a £156 victim surcharge. The court heard that the offences were committed after the victim had gone to Wright's partner's home in Widnes. The 22-year-old man was refused entry. Wright was on the phone to his girlfriend when the victim went to her address. He subsequently confronted the victim as he walked towards Hough Green Railway Station to go back to his Liverpool home. Fearing that Wright had a weapon, the victim pulled him off the bicycle he was on. In the ensuing struggle, which occurred near the entrance of the railway station at around 12.30pm on Sunday 12 July, Wright attempted to stab the victim with a kitchen knife he was carrying. This resulted in the victim sustaining two minor cuts to his torso.



Wright then ran off along Liverpool Road to a nearby convenience store, discarding the large knife as he did so, as well as the coat and snood he had on and his house keys and mobile phone. He called the police from the store, claiming that the victim had brought the knife to the scene. However, a subsequent search of Wright's home revealed that it was part of a set of kitchen knives in the property. Wright was arrested outside the store, and when interviewed in custody he claimed that he had gone to the train station to meet a friend. He said the victim attacked him and that the knife 'came out of nowhere'. Wright also initially claimed that he was unaware the victim had gone to his girlfriend's house that morning. However, he later admitted in custody that his girlfriend had phoned him that morning to tell him about the unexpected visit. After being informed of all the evidence that officers subsequently gathered against him, including CCTV footage and witness statements, Wright pleaded guilty to both of his charges.

Following his sentencing, DC Rob Catterall, who led the investigation on behalf of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"Connor Wright went to Hough Green Railway Station armed with a large knife to confront his girlfriend's ex-partner, and in the ensuing altercation in a road he attempted to stab him. Thankfully, this only resulted in the victim sustaining two minor injuries that did not require hospital treatment. The consequences of this incident could have been far worse, for both the two men involved and their families. I am pleased that Wright has now been convicted of, and sentenced for, the offences he committed, and I hope that this case deters others from carrying and using knives."*

CI Sarah Heath, who is Cheshire Constabulary's knife crime lead, added: *"Cheshire has a lower rate of knife crime than most other counties in England. We saw a reduction in knife crime in Cheshire last year, in contrast to the rise in knife crime that was seen nationally. However, we will not be satisfied until we have achieved our goal of achieving weapons-free streets throughout Cheshire. We have a multi-faceted approach to tackling knife crime at Cheshire Constabulary. Our structured prepare, protect, pursue and prevent approach to combating knife crime involves various partner agencies, including local authorities, education providers, health authorities, third sector organisations, youth representatives and community groups. We work together to educate young people about the dangers and futility of carrying weapons, steer them away from criminality and offer them attractive alternative ways to spend their time. We will continue to endeavour – through education, awareness and action – to make Cheshire a county in which no-one carries a knife or feels that there is a reason to do so. However, the police cannot achieve this goal on our own. Knife crime is a societal problem that cannot be solved without the support of the whole society. I urge anyone with information regarding knife crimes or those who carry weapons to give us the details. If you know someone who carries a knife then reporting it to the police could be enough to save a life. For the small few in*

our communities who continue to carry knives, bring harm to others and have no intention of changing their behaviour, we will enforce action in every case."

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *"Carrying a knife doesn't make you safer, and the consequences can be devastating for all those involved. Cheshire Constabulary is doing all it can to reduce the number of dangerous weapons on our streets, and to educate people about the dangers of knife crime, and I urge anyone with information about those who carry such weapons to come forward in confidence and report it."*

To report any type of crime involving weapons call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, or 999 in an emergency. Information can also be passed to the force online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Anyone who knows someone that carries a knife can report it to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Constabulary secures first full Stalking Protection Order

Cheshire Constabulary has secured its first full Stalking Protection Order.

The civil order, which places strict restrictions on a Runcorn man for the next five years, is one of only a handful to be granted in the country. The order prohibits him from contacting or approaching a named woman, contacting or interacting with her family and friends and bans him from entering a particular area of the county. It also means that he must immediately hand over any electronic devices when requested by a police officer and must give access to passwords and log-in details.

DCSupt Denise Worth, who is in charge of Cheshire's Public Protection Directorate, said: *"Once again we are proud to be leading the way in Cheshire. This full Stalking Protection Order is a first for the force and is testament to the dedication and hard work of all those involved in securing this order at court and safeguarding a woman who is potentially at risk of stalking behaviour. It is a great example of team work at its best. The officers involved in the case have worked extremely hard alongside solicitors from the force's legal team and dedicated Domestic Abuse officers working within the force's Public Protection Directorate to ensure a positive outcome for the victim with a full order being granted. Not only does it restrict the activities and movements of the man for the next five years, it also provides peace of mind to the victim that safeguarding measures are in place if needed."*

Stalking Protection Orders, which were introduced in January 2020, are one of a number of options available to police forces to help safeguard and protect victims at risk of stalking. They are civil orders made on application by police through magistrates' court and applications for interim or full orders can be made. An interim Stalking Protection Order is a temporary order that can be imposed immediately if the court considers it appropriate to do so. In this case, an interim order was put in place in March, reviewed in July and extended until a hearing on 13 August at Cheshire East Magistrates' Court where the full order was granted.

A full Stalking Protection Order requires a finding in law that a person has pursued a course of conduct amounting to stalking behaviour and that an order is necessary to protect a person from such a risk. It is not an alternative to a prosecution but allows police forces and courts to move quicker to ban alleged stalkers from contacting victims or visiting their home or place of work or study. The order can be granted without a conviction in place. Breaching the terms of a Stalking Protection Order is a criminal offence.

Joanne Clark, from the force's Legal Services Team, said: *"The impact of stalking behaviour should never be underestimated and I hope that this case highlights once again that, as a force, we are committed to doing*

everything we can to make sure that all options are explored when dealing with this type of behaviour and to ensure the best possible outcome for the victim. Together with the valuable work our officers are involved in as part of the Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit, we are helping to make a real difference to people affected by this issue.”

Only the second in the country – and the first of its kind in the North West – the Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit is being run by Cheshire Constabulary in partnership with North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The unit is jointly funded by the force and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and all agencies are working together to help stalking victims and the risk caused by perpetrators through a range of interventions. The unit operates from a base in Warrington and involves an experienced and dedicated team of police officers and mental health professionals and outreach workers along with victim advocates who provide practical support, safety planning and advice for stalking victims regardless of whether the stalker’s identity is known.

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, said: *“Stalking is an abhorrent crime which leaves its victims living in fear. I am pleased to have provided funding to support the work of Cheshire’s Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit which works hard to address stalking at its root-cause and provide protection and support for victims of the crime. Cheshire Constabulary is one of the first forces to secure a full Stalking Protection Order and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of officers and the force’s legal team in securing this. It is an important tool that can be used to deal with stalking behaviour and will provide vital reassurance to the victim that we are taking the issue seriously and doing everything we can to help.”*

For more details about SPOs visit the [Government website](#).

Two men jailed for life following Macclesfield murder

Two men convicted of murdering a popular and well-loved father in Macclesfield have been jailed for life.

Daniel Whitmore, aged 26, and Daniel Mayers, aged 38, were both found guilty of murder following a 12 day trial at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 26 August. The pair reappeared in court where they were both jailed for life. Whitmore, of Mayfield Avenue, Macclesfield, will serve a minimum of 17 years and six months and Mayers of Glegg Street, Macclesfield, will serve at least 20 years.

Their victim, Peter Robson, known by all as “Archie”, was found collapsed in his room at a hostel in Glegg Street, Macclesfield, at 6pm on 8 November 2019. Mayers alerted hostel staff claiming that Archie, aged 59, had a seizure and that they had found him on the floor of his room. Paramedics were called and they rushed him to hospital where staff, concerned about the seriousness of the injuries to Archie’s head and face and that they were likely the result of an assault, alerted police. Officers attended the hostel and discovered Archie’s room in disarray with obvious signs of a disturbance and an assault having taken place.

CCTV showed Mayers and Whitmore’s movements around the hostel from the early hours of the 8th November throughout the day, often leaving the hostel and returning to Archie’s room over the course of a that day. It also showed Archie walking into his room during that morning seemingly fit and well and not being seen again until taken out of his room by ambulance staff. The CCTV also showed the defendants removing items of clothing, footwear and a television from Archie’s room after the assault took place. The footage later shows them returning and reporting to staff that Archie had collapsed. Mayers was arrested that evening and Whitmore was arrested the following day as enquiries revealed that Archie’s injuries had

been the result of a violent assault. Sadly, Archie died on Saturday 9 November and the two men were subsequently charged with his murder.

DI Adam Waller said: *“Mayers and Whitmore tried to cover their tracks by lying that Archie had a seizure. CCTV clearly showed they had been spending time in Archie’s room for a prolonged period, leaving us with no doubt that they had been involved in some way in Archie’s death. Despite their efforts to clean up after attacking Archie, powerful forensic evidence also supported the involvement of the defendants in an assault. Despite our best efforts we still don’t know why. His family are devastated and have told me that their lives will never be the same again. Archie was a much loved father and, despite some of the challenges he faced during his life, he remained a well-liked character, especially in the Knutsford area where he spent most of his life. His frailties and vulnerability made him a prime target for Mayers and Whitmore, and he was assaulted and left to suffer in his room for most of that day. It was only due to a suggestion from an associate of Mayers, that medical help was sought. Leaving Archie in the manner that they did whilst they played snooker and visiting a pub was quite frankly, despicable and cowardly. I’d like to pass on my thanks to all the officers and staff that worked on the investigation and to those members of the community that assisted in our search for the truth. I would also like to recognise the part that Archie’s family played in this case and in particular the manner in which they have conducted themselves throughout what must have been a harrowing trial to sit through. I only hope this conviction and the sentences handed to Mayers and Whitmore will help his family and friends in some way to come to terms with his death.”*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire said: *“What these two men did shocked a community and left a family devastated. My thoughts are with the family and friends and I hope this conviction gives them some form of comfort in that justice has been done and those responsible for his untimely death are going to pay price for their violence.”*



Daniel Whitmore



Daniel Mayers

Detectives issue warning following recent spate of Facebook scams

Residents are being warned about a new wave of online scams where fraudsters hack into Facebook accounts in a bid to steal money from family and friends.

The sophisticated scam involves a hacker gaining access to an existing Facebook Messenger account who then message friends and family asking them to receive cash after an item has been sold on eBay. Scammers will say that their PayPal is not working or that they do not have an account and ask whether the friend or family member can receive funds to their own PayPal account. Once the undisclosed amount has been

transferred to a bank account, they will then forward it to an account controlled by the fraudster. Once the payment has been transferred, the transaction is then reversed, leaving the victim with a negative balance and the fraudster benefitting from cash. Across the UK the total reported loss for these reports is around £44,035. Cheshire Constabulary is now urging residents to remain vigilant when receiving a message asking for help with PayPal.

DS Chris Jacques, of the Economic Crime Unit, said: *“We are extremely concerned with the national trend of fraudsters using social media accounts to make a criminal gain. Nationally there have been multiple reports from victims stating that their Facebook Messenger accounts have been hacked and fraudulent messages have been sent to their friends on their behalf. Interestingly, between June and July, there have been 95 reports of scam messages which specifically mentioned that the item sold on eBay was a camera. I would urge everyone to remain vigilant as this scam will not discriminate. Please follow the key messages and help us to stop more people from being targeted.”*

PCC for Cheshire, David Keane said: *“The concerning aspect of this particular scam is that there is multiple victims with each account that is targeted. Fraudsters will stop at nothing to target innocent victims with a range of different and sophisticated scams. I would urge residents to please share this warning in order to protect those we love and care about from also falling victim to these criminals.”*

Key advice:

- Always be wary of unusual messages asking for help with financial transactions even if the message appears to be from someone you know and trust. Be sure to always check that the message was sent from them by calling them or speaking to them in person
- Never respond to any requests to send money or have money transferred through your account by someone you don't know and trust
- Protect your online accounts from hackers by using a strong separate password and, when you can, turn on two-factor authentication
- If you have made a payment then inform your bank or payment service provider as soon as possible, they will be able to help prevent further losses. Always monitor bank statements regularly for unusual activity.

Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or have been a victim of fraud should call Cheshire Police on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Information can also be reported online via the [Cheshire Police website](#).

Police drone takes to the sky to help keep Cheshire safe

Cheshire Constabulary has a new piece of kit to help keep communities safe, with the force's drone officially taking to the sky from today (Monday 24 August).

The Matrice 300RTK drone, which is also known as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), will equip the frontline with a useful and powerful tool that can support officers in their daily duties.



By using the latest technologies in the fight against crime, the drone will enable the force to provide a better service to the public and make sure vulnerable people are safeguarded. The force has recruited and trained up a team of officers who make up the Drone Support Unit, which includes three officers and a sergeant. The unit is based at the headquarters in Winsford and will assist with:

- Searching for missing and wanted people
- Aerial imagery and reconstruction of road traffic collisions
- Aerial imagery for crime scene investigations
- Protests and disorder
- Identification of cannabis farms
- Event management planning

The newly qualified pilots have all received qualifications the Civil Aviation Authority recognise to enable them to operate a drone on behalf of the Constabulary.



CI Gareth Wrigley said: *“A few short months ago the unit formed, and the team have been working hard to get to this point, where the drone can officially take to the skies to assist with frontline policing. I want to*

reassure the public that the drone will not be used for general surveillance and will only be used for incidents and operations. Having drone capability will make a huge difference in the way we protect vulnerable people and gather critical evidence at scenes. This is a really exciting time for the Constabulary which will increase our tactical options to help make Cheshire even safer."

The PCC for Cheshire, David Keane, said: *"Police currently use the National Air Support Service (NPAS) for all its aerial requirements such as search and photography. Although manned aircraft will always be required for some operational activities, there are opportunities, such as when aerial photography alone is required, that drones would be more suitable, quicker to deploy and more cost-effective. The drone will bring huge benefits to frontline policing in Cheshire and I am really pleased that the force is now in a position to start using the drones on a day-to-day basis to help keep the public of Cheshire safe."*

Officers join forces to tackle county lines drug dealing in Halton and Merseyside

Officers from Merseyside and Cheshire joined forces to tackle county lines drug dealing and the criminal exploitation of vulnerable adults and children on Friday 21 August.

Organised and led by Merseyside Police, with support from Cheshire Constabulary and British Transport Police, the latest Operation Medusa focused on Liverpool and Halton. With their direct links to Liverpool by both road and rail, Runcorn and Widnes are amongst the towns that are targeted by county lines gangs based in the city.

As part of the regional operation, plain-clothed officers from Merseyside and Cheshire joined British Transport Police officers at railway stations in a bid to identify people involved in county lines drug dealing. During the day Liverpool Lime Street, Liverpool South Parkway and the main railway stations in Runcorn and Widnes were monitored by a significant number of officers, who utilised a number of police tactics to spot people acting suspiciously and took action where necessary.



Drugs dogs were also utilised by officers at the railway stations to identify passengers in possession of illegal substances. Plain-clothed officers were also deployed at other strategic locations in Runcorn and Widnes, and warrants were executed simultaneously at addresses in Runcorn and Liverpool by officers investigating county lines drug dealing. In addition, a significant number of extra resources were committed to monitoring the main arterial routes in and out of Halton and Liverpool and stopping vehicles and speaking to occupants suspected of being involved in the supply of illegal drugs. Drugs dogs also assisted officers monitoring the roads.

Warrants were addresses in Halton and Liverpool as part of the operation, and a large quantity of people and vehicles were stopped and searched. Quantities of class A and class B drugs and cash were seized on the day, as were weapons including knives, machetes and air weapons. A total of 14 people were subsequently arrested, with two of them since being charged with drug dealing offences.

Merseyside Police Inspector Katie Wilkinson said: *"The operation was a key part of our continued operational activity to put a stop to young people being exploited at the hands of criminal gangs. Organised gangs are*

exploiting children and vulnerable adults to move and supply drugs on their behalf. This lifestyle shouldn't be glamourised and can lead to serious consequences. By working with our colleagues across the border, we'll continue to showcase our extensive efforts to protect the public and arrest offenders."

County lines drug dealing involves organised crime groups based in major cities or urban areas extending their criminal enterprise into more rural locations. They often recruit and coerce young children and vulnerable adults to sell illegal drugs for them.

Supt Laura Marler, who oversees policing in Runcorn and Widnes for Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"Criminals don't simply stop when they reach borders. In fact, organised crime groups based in major cities are always looking to extend their criminal activities into other locations, using mobile phones to let drug users know when and where they can buy illegal drugs from them locally. Friday's operation was part of our ongoing commitment to disrupt criminal activity and make Runcorn and Widnes safer places to live, work and visit. However, it wasn't just about catching criminals and seizing drugs. One of the main aims was to help identify and safeguard vulnerable adults and children who are controlled, coerced and manipulated into dealing drugs on behalf of organised crime gangs. By doing so we can offer them the support that they require and help to set them on the right path for a better life. The operation has also helped us to gather further information on how transport networks are being used by county lines criminals."*

DSupt Gareth Williams, Taskforce lead at British Transport Police, said: *"British Transport Police has a unique approach to county lines. We are the only force that operates nationally, targeting gangs who use railway stations and trains across England, Scotland and Wales to transport drugs. This joint operation, and the many others like it, are designed to target these criminal gangs at every stage of their county lines activity, from the cities they operate from to the rail routes they use to transport drugs and the smaller towns and villages where they sell. The activities of these gangs breed violence and go hand-in-hand with child exploitation. Our experience has proven that gangs who use the railway network rely on younger people to move drugs. These individuals are victims, forced through exploitation or intimidation into desperate situations, and it's always our priority to make support available that can get them out of harm and away from crime."*

In total, four warrants were executed during the operation, in Wheatlands and Littlegate in the Halton Brook area of Runcorn and in Roscommon Street and Anfield Road in Liverpool. A small quantity of class B drug cannabis was seized at the address in Wheatlands but no arrests were made. At another address in Runcorn, a quantity of what is believed to be cocaine and cannabis and drugs paraphilia were seized by officers, as were a number of weapons, including knives, machetes and an air pistol. Two men at the property, aged 21 and 18, were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of the class A and B drugs. After being questioned in custody, they have been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

A 46-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman were also arrested in Runcorn on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs, after being stopped and searched by officers. The pair have subsequently been released under investigation in relation to this. The woman has been charged with being concerned in the supply of cocaine and another class A drug, heroin, in relation to a different matter. Also in Runcorn, a 23-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of drug driving and possession of an air weapon in a public place. He has been released under investigation. A 20-year-old man was arrested in Widnes on suspicion of possession with intent to supply crack cocaine after being stopped and searched by officers. He has subsequently been charged with the offence. A 24-year-old man was arrested in Widnes on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of a class B drug after officers seized a quantity of cannabis and his moped in

Widnes. He has been released under investigation. A 36-year-old man from Widnes has also been released under investigation, after being arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine following a stop and search. In total, 47 people were stopped and searched in Halton, with drugs being found and seized from 10 of them.

A number of addresses have been searched in Runcorn and Widnes on the back of arrests made in the towns. Out of the roads in the Halton area, a vehicle was seized, a driver was summoned to appear at court in relation to driving offences and two Traffic Offence Reports were issued.

PCC for Cheshire David Keane said: *"I would like to thank all the officers involved in this operation that was organised to protect communities from serious and organised crime and bring offenders to justice. Illegal drugs blight our communities, causing untold damage to both those that use them and the wider society who suffer from the resulting crime. As Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, I know that officers work tirelessly in their fight against county lines drug dealers and those who exploit and manipulate vulnerable adults and children to aid their criminal enterprises. Friday's operation is a great example of how police forces work together to stamp out serious and organised crime, which has no place in our communities."*

Supt Marler added: *"We will continue to work with other forces and partner agencies to do everything in our power to protect Halton residents from serious and organised crime. However, we also need support from the public. We need residents to be our eyes and ears by looking out for, and reporting, suspicious behaviour and signs of vulnerable children and adults being exploited. If you have any information that may help us to build more intelligence regarding county lines drug dealing, bring offenders to justice and keep vulnerable members of our communities safe then please get in touch. Together we can take dangerous substances off our streets."*

For more details on how to spot the signs of county lines drug dealing, and help make Halton a safer place, visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/campaigns/campaigns/2019/impact/>. Any information regarding drug dealing in your community, no matter how small, should be reported to Cheshire Constabulary on 101, or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk>. Alternatively, you can contact independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal following an aggravated burglary in Great Sankey

Detectives investigating an aggravated burglary in Warrington are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Shortly after 2am on Friday 28 August three men broke into a house on Maine Gardens in Great Sankey while the occupants were asleep inside. The men, one armed with a knife, confronted the man and woman. The man suffered injuries to his arm believed to have been caused by the knife. He was taken to hospital by ambulance where he remains in a stable condition. One of the men has been described as white, aged between 25-30-years-old and of a medium build. He was wearing a mask and a tracksuit. Officers have been carrying out a number of enquiries and are appealing for information from the public.

DC Laura Gilbert, of Warrington CID, said: *“This was a terrifying incident and we have been following a number of lines of enquiry to establish what has taken place. The incident occurred in the early hours of the morning and I am encouraging anyone who saw or heard anything to come forward. If you have any dashcam or CCTV footage which could assist our investigation please send it through to us.”*

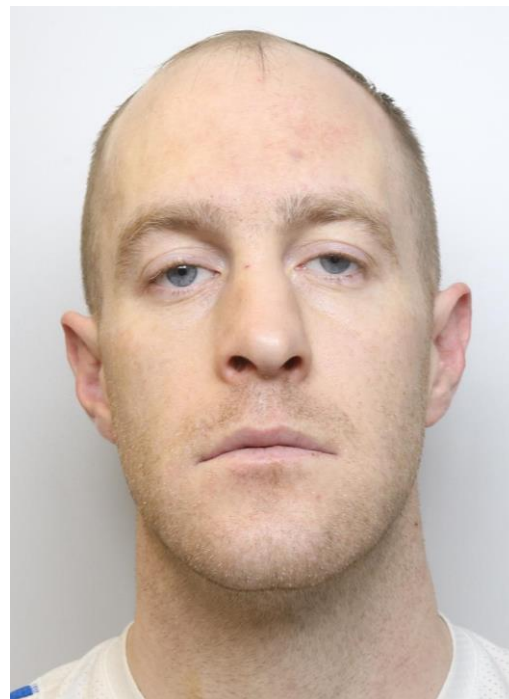
Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 791269. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal to locate man wanted in connection with Crewe assault

Officers are appealing to the public to help locate a man they are looking to speak to in connection with an assault in Crewe.

Peter Bebbington resides in the Crewe and also has links to the Winsford area. The 35-year-old is described as white, of proportionate build and around 5’ 9” tall. He has short blonde hair and blue eyes. Officers are looking to speak to him in connection with an assault in Crewe.

Anyone who sees Peter, or has information on his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML 772568 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/>. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org/.



Appeal for information and footage following fatal collision in Handforth

Officers investigating a fatal collision in Handforth have renewed their appeal for information.

The incident on Dean Road, which becomes Handforth Road, involved a black Suzuki Grand Vitara car and a cyclist. It was reported to the police around 1am on Saturday 22 August. Officers attended the scene and discovered that the cyclist had sustained serious injuries. Sadly, the 43-year-old local man was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. His family have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the SUV car stopped at the scene following the collision. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and no arrests have been made.

The enquiries that have been carried out so far have established that the cyclist was lying in the road when the collision occurred. Officers want to speak to anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the cyclist prior to the collision, or captured relevant footage on a dashcam. They particularly want to talk to the people who were in two cars that were travelling along Dean Road around the time of the incident, between 12.40am and 1am.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 786461, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

Appeal for information following serious assault in Ellesmere Port

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward after a woman was seriously assaulted outside a shop in Ellesmere Port.

Sometime between 2.50pm and 3.15pm on Friday 21 August a 43-year-old local woman was exiting the Express Corner Shop on Stanley Road when she was approached by two men. The group became involved in a verbal disagreement. The group then walked over to Alexandra Street, where the argument escalated resulting in the woman being hit in the face. The men then fled the scene leaving the victim serious facial injuries. The two suspects are both men, they were wearing casual clothing, one had dark hair, while the second man had with frizzy/curlly mousey blonde/brown hair.

DC Iain Ross, of Ellesmere Port CID, said: *“The victim in this case has been left with serious facial injuries and we are committed to doing all we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our investigation I am keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any information which may aid our enquiries. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML786031, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information on the anniversary of the death of a woman from Widnes

Detectives have renewed their appeal for information on the anniversary of the death of a Widnes woman.

Mother-of-two Veronica Anderson left her home in Widnes at 10.10pm on Saturday 24 August 1991 after receiving a phone call. Just hours later (shortly after 3am on Sunday 25th August 1991) the 42-year-old was found dead in her car off Tannery Lane in Penketh, Warrington. A murder investigation was subsequently launched by Cheshire Constabulary. Despite extensive and exhaustive enquiries over the years, no-one has ever been convicted in connection with her death. On the anniversary of Vera’s death, officers are appealing for anyone who has any information about the case, to come forward.



DI Adam Waller said: *“Vera’s family were left heartbroken by her death and have had to live with what happened over the past 29 years. Someone out there must know something about what happened that day. I appreciate that it is a long time ago but I am sure that if you witnessed something you would still remember this now. Anyone with any information is urged to come forward – even the smallest detail can be crucial.”*

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting occurrence number 0709373610. If you do not want to speak to the police then information can also be passed on anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following burglary at Northwich convenience store

Detectives are appealing for witnesses to come forward after a large quantity of cigarettes were stolen during a burglary at a convenience store in Northwich.

At around 1.30am on Monday 24 August three unknown men broke into the Co-op store on Cheshire Business Park, Lostock Gralam. Once inside the building the offenders, who were wearing dark clothing, stole cigarettes. They fled the scene in a black Audi at around 1.40am, travelling towards Manchester on the A556. Officers believe that the incident may be linked to an attempted burglary which occurred at a store in Holmes Chapel a short time before the incident in Northwich.

DC Matthew Uren, of Northwich CID, said: *“The investigation is currently in its early stages and we are following a number of lines of enquiry, including CCTV and forensics. As part of the enquiries I want to hear from anyone who was in the area between 1.15am and 1.45am and witnessed anything suspicious. The same goes for any motorists who were driving in the area around the time of the incident and believes they may have captured the offenders on their dashcams. I urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to call the team here at Northwich on 101, quoting IML 788053.”*

Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 788053 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about>. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>